SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABLE CANNABIS POLICY TOOLKIT

ALIGNING CANNABIS & HEMP POLICY WITH THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Kenzi RIBOULET-ZEMOULI

cannabis2030.org/en

This toolkit is dedicated to Jules Stobbs, artist, thinker, farmer, and pioneer of many of the ideas presented below.

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INTRODUCTION (I)

During the past Century, policies on *Cannabis* have tended to coordinate globally. The *Cannabis* plant and its derivatives are included in an international law framework articulated around prohibition and "classified as harmful for health and with no scientific or medical value [...] with insufficient scientific support to substantiate the decision, as credible evidence exists regarding the medical uses of [...] cannabis" (E/C.12/GC/25). This has provided the basis for the diffusion and generalization of morality-driven *Cannabis* policies, in almost every country.

In 2020, relatively few governments and non-state actors deny the failure of this "war on drugs" approach to policing *Cannabis* and other psychoactive plants or substances. Even fewer of them advocate for its continuation. Accordingly, there is a shared, broad, and multi-stakeholder consensus: **the world needs to rethink *Cannabis* policies.**

After having justified the severe policy status applied to the *Cannabis* plant since the early design of current international drug policy in the 1950s, the World Health Organization (WHO), on the basis of an unprecedented evidence-based assessment undertaken between 2016 and 2019, now acknowledges the therapeutic use and potential of *Cannabis* and cannabinoids. The WHO recommends the international control over the plant, its components, and its medical preparations, to be lowered, and for red tape over the access for medical and research uses to be lifted (E/CN.7/2020/14).

Nonetheless, *Cannabis* and its policies are particular, complex, and emotional. They represent unprecedented and fundamentally multi-factorial issues. They require patience, and a holistic, enlightened and multidisciplinary consideration.

Because *Cannabis* provides this opportunity for *systems thinking*, a novel approach to its policies will not only be helpful for the plant's related issues: it will help in redesigning drug-related policies as a whole, and it will also enlighten us to forge the necessary tools required to address the many outdated "non-*Cannabis*" and "non-drug" public policies that hamper the sustainability of humankind.

In an overconnected world village where the behaviour of our societies disrupts nature at its utmost point – **from pandemics to climate change – the decade 2020-2030 calls for a renewed vision of, and connection with nature**. *Cannabis* and its policies are also a lever for that goal.

Adopted by a consensus of all countries on the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** (A/RES/70/1) is a global blueprint for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership towards 2030; a "historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets."

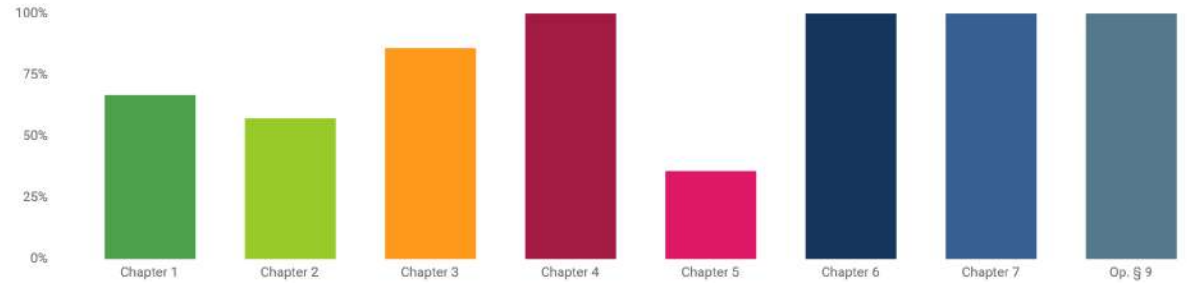
INTRODUCTION (II)

Cannabis, *per se*, is neither a problem nor a pressing issue. It is just a plant, yet interwoven into a million problems, and another million pressing issues. This makes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its million topics covered, a relevant matrix to analyse *Cannabis* and its policies.

Because of its characteristics, widespread cultivation and use, and the diversity of its applications, we found that the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant and its related policies directly trigger at least **64 of the 169 targets among 15 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainability and *Cannabis* policies also echo **75 of the 104 operational recommendations** of another important policy toolkit adopted by global consensus in 2016, the outcome document of the '**UNGASS 2016**', the 30th special session of the UN General Assembly on drug policies (A/RES/S-30/1), which noted that "efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing". The UNGASS 2016 outcome is organized in seven thematic chapters focused on prevention & treatment, availability for medical uses, illicit supply reduction, human rights, new trends, international cooperation, and development.

RELATION BETWEEN SUSTAINABLE CANNABIS POLICIES & THE UNGASS 2016 OUTCOME RECOMMENDATIONS



% of each UNGASS chapter with which sustainable cannabis/hemp policies interact (relevant operational recommendations/irrelevant ones)

Cannabis policies also affect –and are impacted by– a number of other domains of international law. It is the case in particular with recent instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or its Paris Agreement, but also with international health regulations and intellectual property agreements. *Cannabis* and its policies can also play a role in the ongoing priority working streams of the international community, such as the 2015–2024 International Decade for People of African Descent (A/RES/68/237), the 2016–2025 United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (A/RES/70/259), the two 2019–2028 Decades: on Family Farming (A/RES/72/239) and the Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace (A/RES/73/1), the 2020–2030 Decade of Healthy Ageing (WHA69.3), and the 2021–2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (A/RES/73/284).

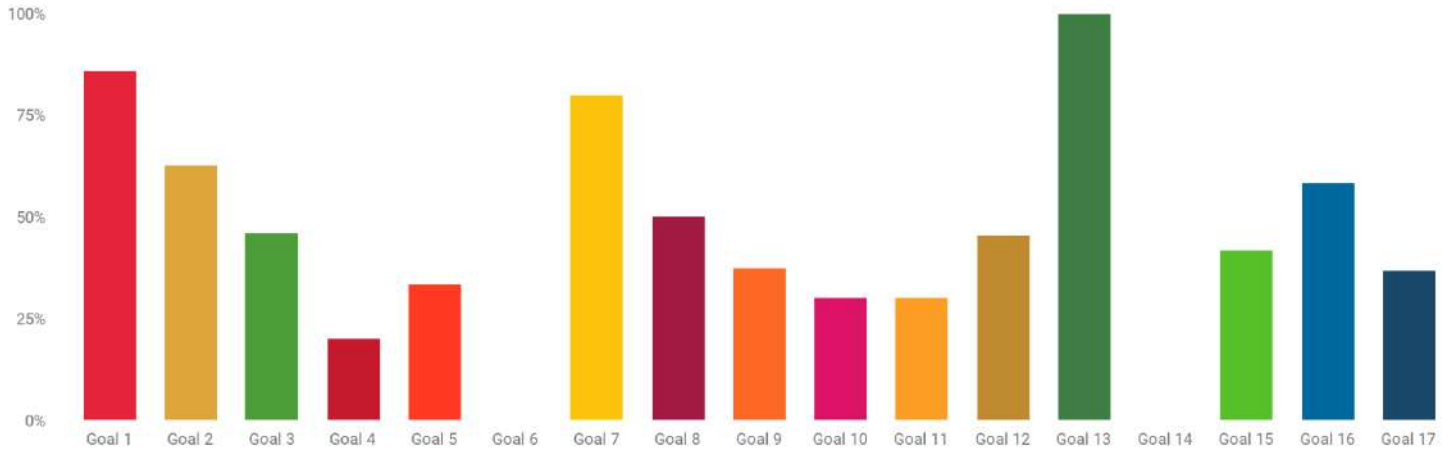
INTRODUCTION (III)

Surprisingly, this plant affects the Sustainable Development Goals both positively and negatively. Regulatory policies play a major role in determining which impact *Cannabis* has on our societies.

The non-psychoactivity-related uses of the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant – called "hemp", "industrial hemp" or "industrial cannabis" in this context – have accompanied humankind over centuries, in particular for the provision of food from the seed (Goals 1 & 2) and through the numerous products derived from its fiber, among which, efficient building materials can be locally sourced and produced (Goals 9 & 11). More recently, the plant has continued to be explored for the soil-cleaning property of its roots, contributing to clean water and oceans (Goal 13). The significant biomass produced by the stems of *Cannabis* has revealed itself to be both a promising source of energy (Goal 7) and a renewable source of recyclable vegetable plastic (Goal 15), etc. Yet, not only the non-psychoactivity-related uses of *Cannabis sativa* L. can contribute to the efforts to meet these Goals. In addition, reforming the current repressive, prohibitive, and marginalizing policies concerning the psychoactivity-related uses of *Cannabis sativa* L. is indispensable to meet Goals 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

The laws, regulations, and policies on *Cannabis* provide the unprecedented opportunity to build, from the onset, "an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design" – the definition of circular economy, as given by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (MakingIt #27).

IMPACT OF CANNABIS AND HEMP POLICIES ON THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



% of each Sustainable Development Goal directly impacted by Cannabis and hemp and their policies (relevant targets/irrelevant targets)

INTRODUCTION (IV)

The reformist trend in *Cannabis* policy globally is an ongoing movement unlikely to be stopped. A deficit of democratic monitoring of the generalization of legal *Cannabis* markets could represent a threat to affected populations and public health. **Ethics are needed.** Renewed interest and takeover of the topic by all categories of the population are urgent.

A one-size-fits-all policy seems neither desirable nor possible, both for geographical imperatives and for the diversity of uses and products of the plant. This makes consensual *Cannabis* policy models (exportable and generalizable) difficult to emerge – and makes any attempt of an universal model, chimeric.

Rather than trying to solve the equation of the perfect *Cannabis* policy and its infinite variables, a more feasible approach would be to step aside, list all the different public policies that affect, or are involved with *Cannabis*, and address them individually while keeping their interconnection in mind. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals is but a perfect tool for this purpose.

The current document summarizes and highlights the most important intertwining between *Cannabis*, its policies, and the 2030 Agenda. The full, in-depth findings, were published by FAAAT in March 2019 and presented at the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations –the main legislative body on international *Cannabis* law. The report draws on research and experiential outcomes from scholars, civil society organizations, affected populations, and market stakeholders. It seeks to show the **potential of the *Cannabis* plant in appropriately regulated settings as transformative for our societies – so long as ethical practices and sustainable approaches are kept central**. The 145 pages report, its 295 references, and other interactive materials in several languages are available at cannabis2030.org

This toolkit is not intended to be an exhaustive guide. It is designed as a valuable resource to contribute to post-prohibition studies. It wishes to help **understand and discuss, from diverse public policy perspectives, the links between the policies of *Cannabis* and the Sustainable Development Goals**, and the impact of the former on the latter.

LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND

DEFINITIONS (I)

Cannabis – *Cannabis sativa* L. is the botanical name of a plant belonging to the family *Cannabaceae*. Modern research has shown that the genus *Cannabis* is mono-specific (i.e, within the genus *Cannabis*, the only existing species is *sativa*). According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, while *Cannabis* is commonly designated by different subspecies names (e.g., *indica*, *ruderalis*...), "the chemical and morphological distinctions by which cannabis has been divided into these subspecies are often not readily discernible, appear to be environmentally modifiable, and vary in a continuous fashion. For most purposes, it suffices to apply the name *Cannabis sativa* to all cannabis plants encountered" (ST/NAR/40).

Hemp – is the English vernacular name historically given to *Cannabis sativa* L. Nowadays, its meaning has evolved, to mean crops explicitly grown for **purposes other than the psychopharmacological ones**, such as clothing fiber, paper, fuel, building material from the fiber, or food and oil from the seeds. The dissociation of "hemp" from psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* (often called "marihuana") is purely artificial and terminological. It is not grounded in botany nor in other science. Nevertheless, jurisdictions have adopted various cutting points – useful, but necessarily arbitrary – to distinguish legal and illegal *Cannabis*, for example according to THC content (depending on the country: 0.2%, 0.3%, 0.6%, 1%...).

Cannabis* buds, flowers, tops** –the dried parthenocarpic fruits (i.e., fruits not bearing seed) of the female *Cannabis sativa* plant are known by dozens of different names (with significant geographical variations). They are the part of the plant that contain the highest concentration of phytocannabinoids, molecules that have innumerable pharmacological effects on animals (including human beings). Although being fruits, they are often called "flowers", "buds" or "tops." Confusingly, this part of the plant is often referred to simply as "cannabis". In order to avoid a confusions with the "*Cannabis* plant", this toolkit will refer to the parthenocarpic fruits ("buds") and to other derivatives (resin, concentrates, etc.) used for human consumption as "Cannabis* products**."

DEFINITIONS (II)

Medical or **therapeutic uses** – refer to all the uses of *Cannabis* products (related to its psychoactivity) applied to the prediction, prevention, diagnostic and treatment of human diseases and, when appropriate, the reparation of the health hazards produced. As varying perceptions and interpretations of the words "medical," "medicinal" and "therapeutic" exist, this toolkit will indistinguishably refer to both terms.

Adult use – historically called *non-medical* or *recreational use*, the expression *adult use* refers to the consumption of *Cannabis* products for the purpose of enjoying its psychoactivity without it being consciously associated with a medical or therapeutic end. Adult uses include regular or sporadic consumption by people having decided to use *Cannabis* products in search of mental or physical wellbeing, enjoyment (*ludic* or *leisure use*), or for whatever other motive (e.g., *ritual* or *entheogenic uses*).

Psychoactivity – a controversial term. For reasons of simplicity, this document uses the word *psychoactivity* as a synonym of *psychopharmacological effect* –the so-called *high* effect.

Psychoactivity-related uses	**Medical** / therapeutic uses
	Adult uses (**recreational**, entheogenic, others)
Non-psychoactivity-related uses	'Industrial' uses (**food**, cosmetics, others)

DEFINITIONS (III)

Phytocannabinoids – are only one among diverse classes of organic compounds with pharmacological effects of the plant. They are much more specific to *Cannabis sativa* L. than to any other plant. It was only in the late 1990s that research started to reveal the mechanisms of action of these phytocannabinoids, responsible for the unique and characteristic psychoactive effects of the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant.

Cannabinoids – is the general term that comprises not only phytocannabinoids[1] but also **endocannabinoids**[2] (naturally secreted within, among others, the human body). They describe a kind of compound that activates specific neuronal receptors in the human body; these receptors form the endocannabinoid system, involved in maintaining the body's homeostasis.

Neocannabinoids – in recent years, modern chemistry has created novel, artificial cannabinoid molecules that activate the human endocannabinoid system. They are called neocannabinoids[3] and they facilitate discrimination against those cannabinoids that are not occurring in a natural environment and can only be obtained, among others, via a chemical *in vitro* synthesis or via biotechnological inventions. **Dysbiosynthesis** is the process of obtaining cannabinoids from living organisms with genetically-engineered biosynthetic pathways (GMOs).

Dronabinol – also known as Δ^9-THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) or as tetrahydrocannabinol[4] , is the phytocannabinoid primarily responsible for the unique pharmacological effects of *Cannabis* parthenocarpic fruits, including the so-called *high*. Δ^9-THC is also responsible for an important part of the therapeutic effects associated with the plant. While being, in quantity, the primary psychoactive constituent present in *Cannabis* plants, its effects are modulated by complex pharmacological interactions with hundreds of other phytocannabinoids thus far identified (known as *entourage* effect). The exact same Δ^9-THC obtained from *Cannabis* can also be synthesized *in vitro*; however, since Δ^9-THC occurs in nature, lab-made Δ^9-THC is a *synthetic phytocannabinoid*, which is different from a *neocannabinoid*.

Cannabidiol – Another well-known phytocannabinoid, cannabidiol (CBD), however, does not provoke the *recreational* effect characterizing Δ^9-THC. This absence of Δ^9-THC-like effects is responsible for CBD not being considered a *controlled drug* in international law and most legislations. Alone or in conjunction with Δ^9-THC, cannabidiol (similarly to many other minor phytocannabinoids without potential for Δ^9-THC-like effects) has shown promising potential for a number of conditions and is subject to intense scrutiny in medical research.

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[1] From ancient Green φυτόν (*phutón*), "plant"; phytocannabinoids are those cannabinoids present in plants.
[2] From ἔνδον (*éndon*), "internal"; endocannabinoids are endogenous, internal to the human body.
[3] From νέος (*néos*), "new", "young"; neocannabinoids are novel designer drugs, new psychoactive substances.
[4] Dronabinol = Δ^9-THC. Contrary to common belief, "dronabinol" is the *international nonproprietary name* applying both to the naturally-derived Δ^9-THC from *Cannabis* plants and to the synthetically-obtained Δ^9-THC (which are in fact the exact same, indistinguishable molecule).

ACRONYMS

Δ^9-THC	Delta-9-*t*etra*h*ydro*c*annabinol
AD	*A*lternative *d*evelopment
ADHD	*A*ttention *d*eficit *h*yperactivity *d*isorder
AO	*A*ppellation of *o*rigin
CBD	*C*anna*bid*iol
CND	*C*ommission on *n*arcotic *d*rugs
GI	*G*eographic *i*ndication
GMO	*G*enetically *M*odified *O*rganism
ROAD	*R*egulation-*o*riented *a*lternative *d*evelopment
SDG	*S*ustainable *d*evelopment *g*oals
UN	*U*nited *N*ations
UNAIDS	Joint *U*nited *N*ations Programme on HIV/*AIDS*
UNCAC	*U*nited *N*ations *C*onvention *A*gainst *C*orruption
UNFCCC	*U*nited *N*ations *F*ramework *C*onvention on *C*limate *C*hange
UNGASS	*U*nited *N*ations *G*eneral *A*ssembly *S*pecial *S*ession of 2016
UNODC	*U*nited *N*ations *o*ffice on *d*rugs and *c*rime
WHO	*W*orld *H*ealth *O*rganization
WIPO	*W*orld *I*ntellectual *P*roperty *O*rganization

1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT?

This toolkit is organized in **chapters**; each chapter focuses on one SDG Goal.

All chapters open with an index of the 2030 Agenda targets and of the UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations that relate to the Goal and topics discussed (a full list of SDG targets is included in A/RES/70/1, and there is an overview of all UNGASS 2016 operational recommendations relevant to this toolkit, at the end of this document).

Chapters are subdivided in **thematic sections**, which also appear listed in the table of contents.

The thematic sections summarize the extended analysis contained in the report *Cannabis & Sustainable Development: Paving the way for the next decade in Cannabis and hemp policies* published by FAAAT editions in March 2019.

Thematic sections may include boxes containing references to international law and policy, or examples, precedents and operational good practices from public administrations and governments around the world.

Some of the thematic points contain **recommendations**, which are numbered as follows: the first two digits tell about the Goal referred to, and the last two figures number the recommendations. For example, "RECOMMENDATION No. 08 02" refers to the 2nd recommendation made in the SDG 8 chapter.

The 91 recommendations made in the document are listed at the end of the toolkit.

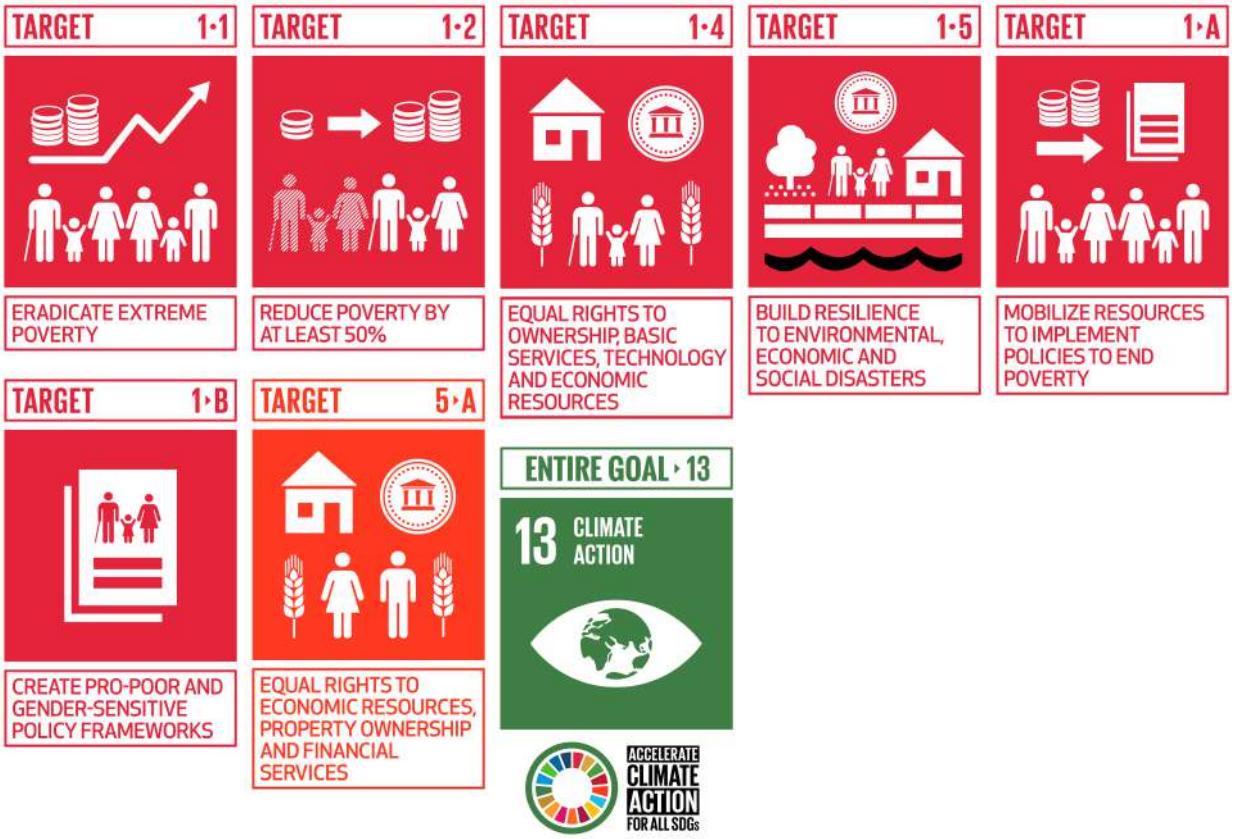
The interactive website cannabis2030.org allows users to discriminate the content of the toolkit by recommendation, by SDG Goal, by UNGASS recommendation, and via other filters and criteria.

1

NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 1·1
ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY
TARGET 1·2
REDUCE POVERTY BY AT LEAST 50%
TARGET 1·4
EQUAL RIGHTS TO OWNERSHIP, BASIC SERVICES, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES
TARGET 1·5
BUILD RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISASTERS
TARGET 1·A
MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO END POVERTY
TARGET 1·B
CREATE PRO-POOR AND GENDER-SENSITIVE POLICY FRAMEWORKS
TARGET 5·A
EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

3B	3D	4D	4G	4I	5V	6A	6D	6E	7A	7B	7C
7D	7E	7F	7G	7H	7I	7J	7K	7L			

Continuing to criminalize *Cannabis*-related activities fosters poverty

Imprisonment for *Cannabis*-related offences often means the removal of a community member expected to contribute to the economic stability of the collective, family, community, village.

Where *Cannabis* remains fully unregulated or prohibited, –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 01– **it is urgent to systematize alternatives to prison in the case of petty *Cannabis* and other drug-related offences, to avoid the side-effect of worsening the economic and living conditions of the offender's family and community.**

Where *Cannabis* policy reforms have been implemented, –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 02– **criminal records of people previously convicted for *Cannabis*-related offenses must be erased**, to eliminate stigma and increase the person's ability to reintegrate appropriately into society, labour, family, and education (see also Goals 10 and 16).

Helping people transition to the legal market

Legally regulating psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* is a direct way to economically empower populations living in situations of poverty and already involved in activities declared illicit.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 03– **Policy reform should target vulnerable populations already involved in informal *Cannabis*-related activities, prioritizing their inclusion in regulated markets.**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 04– **Barriers to access to legal markets, such as licences, unaffordable administrative fees, or seed traceability requirements, must be avoided.**

A legal market based on fair trade & ethics

Informal, legacy *Cannabis* markets are, to a large extent, dominated by local cultivation and consumption. Yet, *Cannabis* crops grown mostly by small-scale and family farmers are largely curtailed and exploited by criminal organizations, jeopardizing most of the revenue generated. The economic model of unregulated *Cannabis* markets is diametrically opposed to fair trade practices: highly hierarchized, full of middlemen between growers and consumers, and relying on elements of exploitation (see also Goal 8).

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 05– **Policy reforms must include fair trade components, and reduce the number of middlemen or their profits compared to those of growers and retailers, and implement a reasonable redistribution of profits along the production chain to end poverty among small-scale and traditional *Cannabis* farmers.**

Recognition and protection of traditional areas of cultivation, knowledge and genetics + Right to seeds

Cannabis crops are traditionally found in many regions. But the vast majority of major historical *Cannabis*-producing areas are located in developing and peripheral countries.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 06– **Licit international trade policies must ensure equitable benefit-sharing for the populations that have been growing *Cannabis* for generations, in peripheral areas and developing countries.**

Specific stakeholder-driven approaches to preserve genetic resources and enhance communities' accession to legally regulated markets (such as intellectual property rights or community ownership over natural resources) should be designed. It is crucial to proactively preserve the knowledge, traditions and natural resources associated with the long-established cultivation of *Cannabis* while granting fair access to international regulated markets.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 07– **Collective protections should be established in terms of Intellectual Property and preservation of natural and genetic resources** – not only to preserve, enhance, and value traditional knowledge, intangible heritage, and related products, but also **to ensure fair and non-relocatable economic opportunities for the populations concerned**.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 08– The **international legal protections for traditional medicine, knowledge and cultural expressions must apply** to legacy *Cannabis* growers communities.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 09– **Lists and registers of allowed seeds and plant varieties shall not rule out the use of personal and community owned, local, traditional and farm-saved *Cannabis* varieties**, a human right as per the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 10– **Governments should support initiatives to preserve genetic diversity**, such as community-led seed banks, ethnobotanical research, as well as the conservation of knowledge and know-how regarding the *Cannabis* plant.

Box 1 - Farmers' and peasants' rights over natural resources and traditional knowledge

The World Intellectual Property Organization works to "identify and explore the Intellectual Property (IP) needs and expectations of new beneficiaries, including the holders of indigenous knowledge and innovations, in order to promote the contribution of the intellectual property system to their social, cultural and economic development." The organization found 14 areas of needs and expectations of Traditional Knowledge (TK) holders, regarding the protection and preservation of their legacy: "(1) A commonly agreed definition of TK (2) Identification of IP aspects of TK (3) Development of modalities for cooperation between TK holders/owners and users to establish IP benefits (4) Assistance with documentation (5) Provision of advice on IP protection of documented TK (6) Provision of legal advice on the IP aspects of access to genetic resources and benefit sharing and technical assistance with drafting of access regulations (7) Provision of technical advice on the IP aspects of plant breeders rights (8) Assistance with the modernization and strengthening of IP legislation (9) Practical testing of the utility of the IP system in the protection of TK (10) Provision of IP advice on draft sui generis laws (11) Studies on the IP aspects of customary law and the development of IP type protection on the basis of customary law (12) Provision of IP information and advice on the protocols (13) Training on the drafting of contracts (14) Awareness-raising on the use of the IP system to protect TK. (15) Training on enforcement of IP (16) Facilitating cross-sectional dialogue at the national, regional and international levels." (WIPO Publication No. 768)

In its preamble, the Plant Treaty (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) recognizes the right "to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material" and the right "to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources" (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Plant Treaty)

Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly has declared that "Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to seeds [...] including: (a) The right to the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (b) The right to equitably participate in sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (c) The right to participate in the making of decisions on matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (d) The right to save, use, exchange and sell their farm-saved seed or propagating material." It further states that "Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their own seeds and traditional knowledge. [...] States shall recognize the rights of peasants to rely either on their own seeds or on other locally available seeds of their choice and to decide on the crops and species that they wish to grow. [...] States shall ensure that seed policies, plant variety protection and other intellectual property laws, certification schemes and seed marketing laws respect and take into account the rights, needs and realities of peasants and other people working in rural areas." (A/RES/73/165)

Fiber & resin: diversifying harvest outputs

A diversification in the type of *Cannabis* products manufactured (health-related products, cosmetics, food and foodstuff, energy, bioplastics, textile, etc.) is desirable to reduce farmers' vulnerability to market price variations, and contribute to local or self-sufficiency (see also Goal 8). This is particularly relevant, as *Cannabis* plants can be used to obtain highly nutritive products (see Goal 2) but also clothing, cosmetics, paper, food, beer, biofuels, animal bedding, building materials, insulation, car moldings, and other consumer and industrial goods, in addition to the psychoactive products used for medicinal purposes or adult uses.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 11– **Regulations should embed *Cannabis* and hemp training and capacity-building programs within pre-existing regional, national, and local agricultural strategies, and assist farmers in diversifying the output products of their crops.**

The urgency of discontinuing eradication policies & the right to land

Where *Cannabis* cultivation remains illegal, –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 12– **crop eradication policies should be urgently discontinued**, as they destroy farmers' sole means of survival and push them further into poverty. Related practices such as **land seizure, crop fumigations and other indiscriminate mass-eradication methods must be stopped**.

Where *Cannabis* policies have been reformed, –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 13– **asset forfeiture and seizure of farmers' land should be repaired, and procedures of property claim and restitution should be set up.** –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 14– **The environmental impacts of eradication policies must be assessed. And repaired.**

Box 2 - Living in security, peace, and dignity is a human right

"States shall respect, protect and fulfil the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. They shall promptly take legislative, administrative and other appropriate steps to achieve progressively the full realization of the rights set forth in the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants adopted in December 2018] that cannot be immediately guaranteed" (A/RES/73/165). One of these is the "right to land", and to "a place to live in security, peace and dignity and to develop their cultures." In this respect, the Declaration asks governments (Article 17) to "remove and prohibit all forms of discrimination relating to the right to land" and "prohibit arbitrary and unlawful forced eviction, the destruction of agricultural areas and the confiscation or expropriation of land and other natural resources, including as a punitive measure." When asked about a particular case of crop eradication, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations expressed "[concern] about the use of glyphosate, which was classified as probably carcinogenic to humans by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization, in the aerial spraying of cannabis crops to control the illicit cultivation of cannabis" and recommended to "suspend such aerial spraying and instead offer alternative development programmes" (E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1)

Alternative Development to assist farmers in transitioning to the legal market

Alternative Development programs are UN-sponsored strategies where farmers of crops declared illicit are trained and funded to transition their production towards licit so-called "cash crops" (usually coffee, cocoa, rice, etc.). –RECOMMENDATION No. 01 15– Policy reforms should consider legal *Cannabis* as an outcome for **Regulation-Oriented Alternative Development (ROAD)** programs and strategies. **Instead of replacing *Cannabis* plants with other crops, ROAD policies can train and assist farmers in their transition from illicit *Cannabis* to legally regulated *Cannabis* production.**

Box 3 - Regulation-Oriented Alternative Development, in practice

In 2017, the *Cannabis* Licensing Authority of Jamaica launched a pilot ROAD project to "[include] the small traditional ganja farmers in the regulated space" with Alternative Development programs "geared towards transitioning current illicit ganja farmers into the legal regulated industry" (Cannabis Licensing Authority, Alternative Development Project presentation) which allowed to learn lessons towards improving this model.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations supports this approach. It also recommended in 2018 that governments "offer alternative development programmes to the affected communities to encourage them to abandon the illicit cultivation of cannabis, including the possibility of participating in the medical cannabis market through a licensing programme for small-scale community farmers" (E/C.12/ZAF/CO/1)

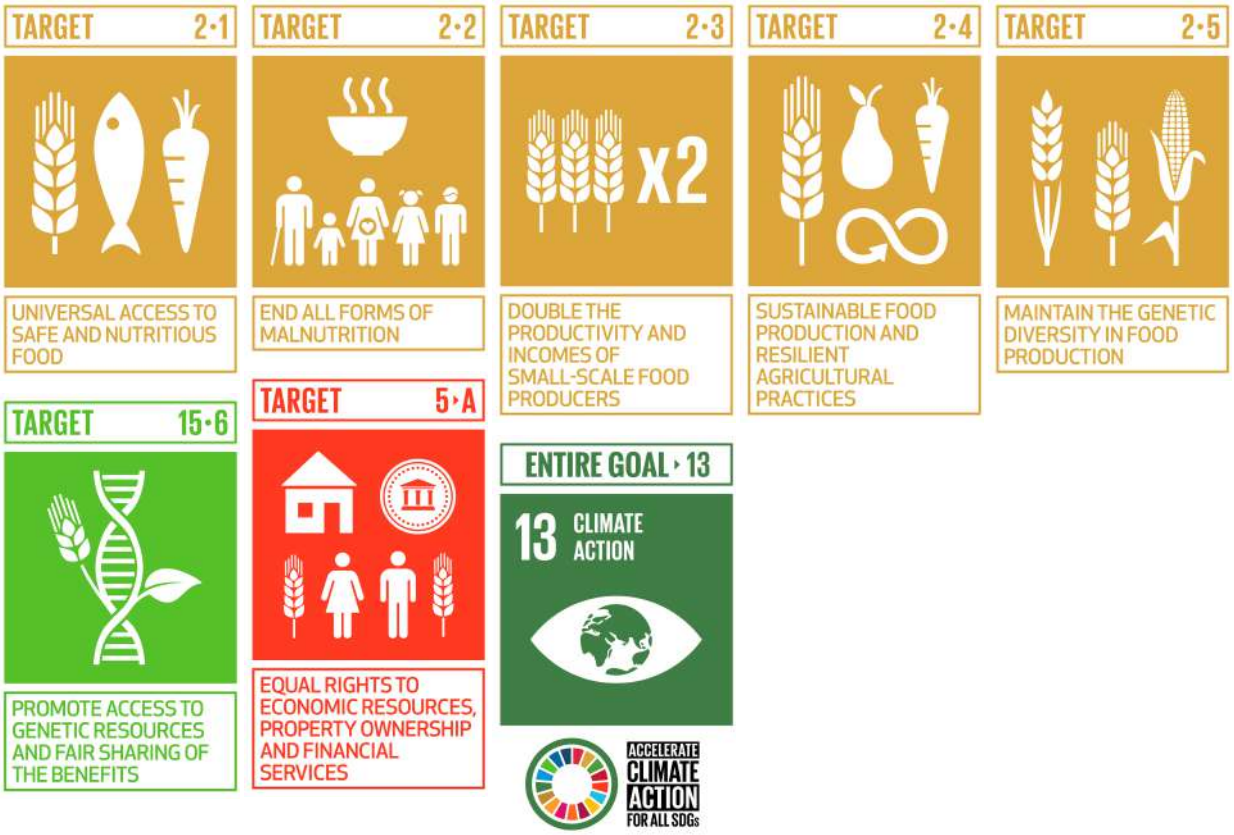
In April 2021, the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs "[took] note of the conference room paper submitted jointly by Germany, Peru and Thailand and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [...] on recent challenges in the field of alternative development" (/E/CN.7/2021/L.4/Rev.1, E/2021/28). The conference room paper mentions "interest to further discuss the challenges of implementing alternative development programmes to address the cultivation of cannabis as well as constraints associated with promoting medical cannabis in the framework of alternative development." The document also suggests "to link, where applicable, national medical and industrial cannabis production to local needs and to set realistic goals and expectations regarding the actual supply and demand" while noting that "there are significant entry barriers for small-scale farmers into the medical cannabis market" and "that there are no instances involving small-scale farmers in traditional source countries of illicit cannabis in the regulated market for medical cannabis and related legal products" (E/CN.7/2021/CRP.6).

2

ZERO HUNGER

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 2·1
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD
TARGET 2·2
END ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION
TARGET 2·3
x2
DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS
TARGET 2·4
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
TARGET 2·5
MAINTAIN THE GENETIC DIVERSITY IN FOOD PRODUCTION
TARGET 15·6
PROMOTE ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND FAIR SHARING OF THE BENEFITS
TARGET 5·A
EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

3B | 3D | 4I | 6D | 7B | 7H | 7I | 7J | 7K | 7L

Cannabis as a source of food, foodstuff and food complements

History of human alimentation, backed by overwhelming contemporary research, shows the important potential of *Cannabis*-derived products as a functional, valuable and healthy food resource. Seeds can be eaten raw or roasted, pressed as oils, ground as flour, etc. Nowadays, "hemp seed" derivatives with naturally-high nutritional value are manufactured, contributing to fighting malnutrition. Local "hemp seed" production for seeds can help secure continued, cheap, equilibrated and essential food supply in impoverished areas.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 02 01– **Humanitarian aid policies and programs should rely on locally-made *Cannabis* seed products as an efficient, affordable and sustainable tool in the fight against malnutrition.**

There are also traditional ways of consuming as food products the non-psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* buds (used to prepare milks, infusions, etc.), currently used to manufacture food complements (e.g., cannabidiol).

Protecting the genetic diversity of "hemp"

Plant genetic resources (chemovars which have been developed, bred and conserved over generations by local communities, and express unique chemotypic expressions) and the accompanying traditional knowledge, are invaluable assets in shaping the global food security of tomorrow, in particular as global population expands in a context of threats to biodiversity and environmental emergency.

Laws restricting non psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* cultivation to a list of limited registered "varieties" can alter the efforts to preserve genetic resources, practices, and knowledge associated with traditional (unregistered) cultivars. It is also of concern with regard to local communities' rights and ownership over their traditional food products and related genetic material. It is finally a potential barrier to innovation, research, and development of new genetics of interest.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 02 02– **Non-psychoactivity-related crops (hemp) should not undergo the same regulatory burden prevailing for psychoactivity-related crops (whether *Cannabis* policies have been reformed or not).**

Box 4 - International law defines “hemp” by purpose: not by variety, not by THC threshold

The Single Convention on Narcotic drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, defines “hemp” as “cannabis used for industrial or horticultural purposes”. The Convention clearly rules out hemp cultivation, and the use of hemp products (i.e. products not used in medicine or scientific research) from its dispositions and régime of control: the Convention does not regulate hemp whatsoever.

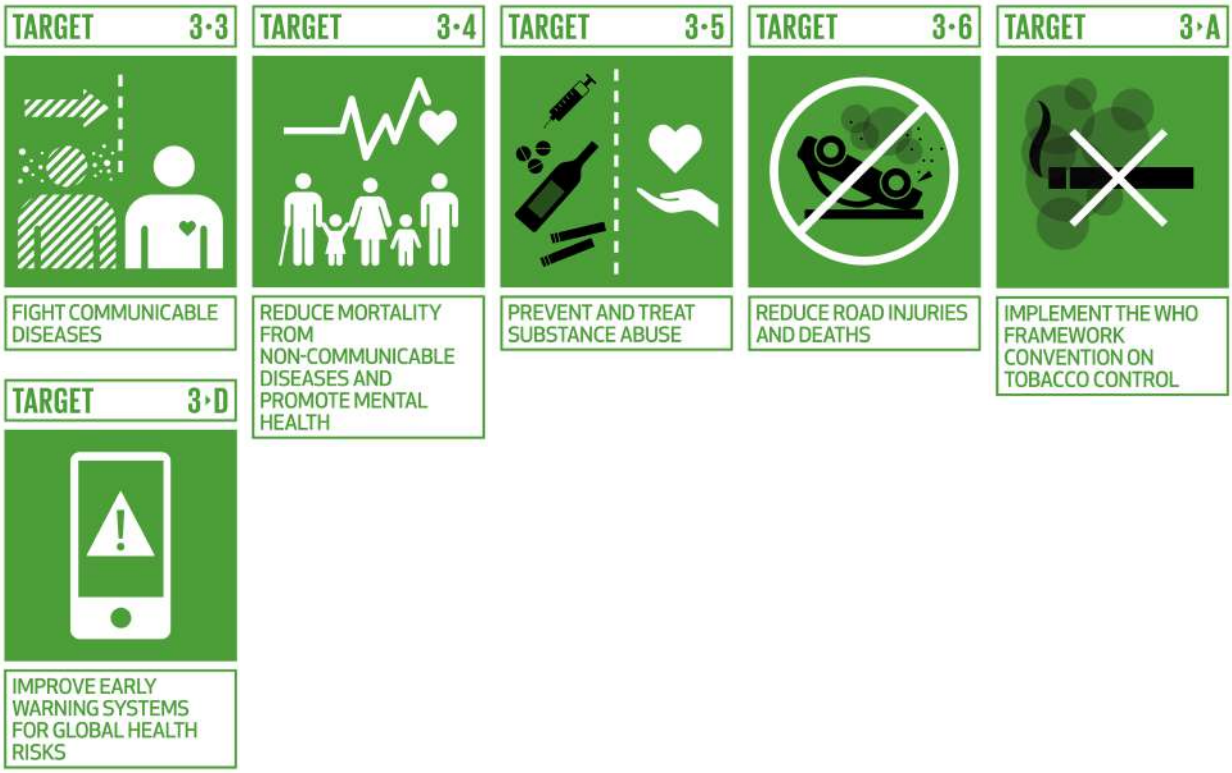
In its Article 2(9) the Convention states that governments “are not required to apply the provisions of this Convention to drugs which are commonly used in industry for other than medical or scientific purposes” and its Article 28 further explains that “this Convention shall not apply to the cultivation of the cannabis plant exclusively for industrial purposes.” The official Commentary of the Convention (UN Publication No. E.73.XI.1, p. 312, § 1-2) precises that the “cultivation of the [cannabis] plant for any other purpose [than the obtention of products for medical and scientific uses], and not only for the purposes mentioned in [Article 28], is consequently exempted.”

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 3·3
FIGHT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
TARGET 3·4
REDUCE MORTALITY FROM NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
TARGET 3·5
PREVENT AND TREAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE
TARGET 3·6
REDUCE ROAD INJURIES AND DEATHS
TARGET 3·A
IMPLEMENT THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL
TARGET 3·D
IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH RISKS

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1I | 1O | 2A | 2B | 2D | 2E | 3H | 6D

Herbal *Cannabis* and cannabinoid products: diverse tools for practitioners

Cannabis is among the most ancient plants used by humans to address health conditions. It is still grown for use as a medicine in dozens of countries, and its therapeutic potential is officially recognized by the World Health Organization.

Promising therapeutic potential has been documented for the treatment of nausea, vomiting, anorexia, cachexia, spasticity, Tourette's syndrome and other movement disorders, inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome, pain, pruritus, glaucoma, some sorts of epilepsy, asthma, sleep disorders, opioid dependency and withdrawal, some psychiatric symptoms, hyperactivity, ADHD, Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune diseases, inflammation and allergies.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 03 01– **Healthcare systems should provide immediate compassionate access to patients in these medical conditions, and undertake proper policy regulations to provide safe and legal medical access to a variety of formulations of *Cannabis* and cannabinoids.**

Herbal *Cannabis*, phytopharmaceutical preparations of *Cannabis* and isolated compounded phytocannabinoid medicines contribute to the diversity and thoroughness of contemporary medical practitioners' toolkits, in particular facing non-communicable diseases. –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 02– **It is vital to train physicians, caregivers and health practitioners, but also traditional healers, to the appropriate caregiving, harm mitigation, and pharmacovigilance**, and, for instance, to mainstream the 5 Moments for Medication Safety developed by the Global Patient Safety Challenge "Medication Without Harm".

Box 5 - Cannabis in international law: a recognized medication

The Expert Committee on Drug Dependence of the World Health Organization concluded a thorough scientific assessment of cannabis in november 2019, finding that "preparations of cannabis have shown therapeutic potential for the treatment of pain and other medical conditions such as epilepsy and spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis, which are not always controlled by other medications" and that "cannabis and cannabis resin do not meet the criteria" of drugs "that are particularly liable to abuse and have little or no therapeutic use" (WHO Technical Report Series No. 1018).

The World Health Organization further considers that "several studies have demonstrated the therapeutic effects of cannabinoids for nausea and vomiting in the advanced stages of illnesses such as cancer and AIDS. [...] Other therapeutic uses of cannabinoids are being demonstrated by controlled studies, including treatment of asthma and glaucoma, as an antidepressant, appetite stimulant, anticonvulsant and anti-spasmodic, research in this area should continue" (WHO website - Substance abuse - Facts and figures - Cannabis)

"Addressing the discrepancy in the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is one of the obligations of Governments in complying with the international drug control conventions" according to the International Narcotics Control Board (E/INCB/2015/1/Supp.1).
In 2009, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, was of the opinion that "the *de facto* denial of access to pain relief, if it causes severe pain and suffering, constitutes cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" (A/HRC/10/44), joined one year later by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest

attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover, for who "the current international drug control regime also unnecessarily limits access to essential medications, which violates the enjoyment of the right to health. The primary goal of the international drug control regime, as set forth in the preamble of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), is the 'health and welfare of mankind', but the current approach to controlling drug use and possession works against that aim" (A/65/255)

Like any other medicine, the products derived from *Cannabis sativa* can generate adverse events or side effects. To monitor and mitigate those, as any prescription medication, the guideline to follow is the World Health Organization's recommendations on the 5 Moments for Medication Safety, a "patient engagement tool [that] focuses on 5 key moments where action by the patient or caregiver can reduce the risk of harm associated with the use of medication/s. This tool aims to engage and empower patients to be involved in their own care. It should be used in collaboration with health professionals, but should always remain with the patients, their families or caregivers." (WHO website - Patient safety - 5 Moments for medication safety)

Cannabis is also a traditional medicine: recognize it and protect it!

Traditional and Western medical systems must be equally mobilized to ensure access and availability of medical *Cannabis* products for therapeutic purposes. The international drug control system contemplates all forms of medicine as equal. Under the 1961 Convention, "medical purposes" does not necessarily have the same meaning under all circumstances, and beyond "western medicine", also includes legitimate systems of traditional and indigenous medicine.

Cannabis remedies, and the way patients make use of these products, fully correspond the World Health Organization's definition of traditional medicine: "the sum total of the knowledge, skill and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures (whether explicable or not) used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness." (WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014-2023)

–RECOMMENDATION No. 03 03– **Countries should mobilize their existing herbal or traditional medicine regulatory frameworks to provide for access to traditional and complementary *Cannabis* medicines and care.**

Box 6 - *Cannabis* in international law: a documented traditional medicine

In 1997, the World Health Organization noted that "Traditional healers in Tanzania have also been known to use an extract from the cannabis plant for the treatment of ear-ache. Cannabis is a traditional psychoactive substance in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly used for ritualistic or medical purposes, but to a varying degree also accepted as an intoxicant [...] India has a long tradition of cannabis use from Vedic times as part of various religious traditions. In some Asian countries cannabis is also added to food as a condiment and used in herbal medicines. The extent of such use has not been well-documented." (WHO/MSA/PSA/97.4)

In 2002, the International Narcotics Control Board recognized that "Cannabis has been used in traditional medicine in some countries for centuries" (E/INCB/2001/1 §208).

In 2018, the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction explained that "most pharmaceutical regulatory systems allow the use of herbal medicines that do not meet the same requirements as those for pharmaceutical medicines [...] For example, manufacturers of traditional herbal medicines with well-established uses are not usually required to provide evidence of efficacy and safety from clinical trials. Instead, they are required only to show evidence of product quality and consistency to ensure that consumers receive standardised doses of herbal products that are free from contaminants or adulterants." (Medical use of cannabis and cannabinoids: Q&A for policymaking).

Precisions on the inclusion of traditional medicine in the scope of the 1961 Convention can be found in the Commentary on Article 4 about the Convention's "general obligations" (UN Publication No. E.73.XI.1, p. 111, § 12)

For recall, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples explains clearly in its Article 24 that "Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals." (A/RES/61/295)

Medicinal *Cannabis* as a potential tool for the cessation of tobacco, opioids, alcohol, and benzodiazepines

–RECOMMENDATION No. 03 04– **Herbal *Cannabis* products should be further explored as tools in nicotine cessation strategies.** In particular, **low-THC high-CBD herbal *Cannabis* has been suggested as a potential replacement for tobacco in joints**, in regions of the world where herbal *Cannabis* is usually mixed with tobacco.

Epidemiological evidence shows that the prescription of herbal *Cannabis* and cannabinoids is always associated with a decrease in the prescription of opioid painkillers. Because the degree of access to *Cannabis* and cannabinoids for medical purposes positively correlates with a reduction in overall prevalence of opioid use disorders, –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 05– **healthcare systems should consider *Cannabis* as a therapeutic adjunct or complement to opioid prescription treatments** – in particular in the context of the "synthetic opioids crisis" – **and also in illicit opioid use substitution therapies.**

There is also preliminary evidence supporting beneficial effects of *Cannabis* use in benzodiazepine use reduction, and for the symptoms of alcohol use disorder withdrawal.

It has been shown that high prevalences of *Cannabis* use are statistically associated with low rates of premature deaths. These elements should be carefully considered in the **design of local, national and global public health strategies on non-communicable diseases.**

Unleashing medical research

–RECOMMENDATIONS Nos. 03 06 and 04 03– **Governments must foster independent and publicly-funded medical research of all kinds, including (but not limited to) clinical, pharmacological, botanical, ethnomedical, ethical studies, and in medical anthropology** (see also Goal 4).

Box 7 - *Cannabis* science is a human right

In April 2020, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights found that "scientific research is impaired for some substances under the international conventions on drug control, as these substances are classified as harmful for health and with no scientific or medical value. However, some of these classifications were made with insufficient scientific support to substantiate the decision, as credible evidence exists regarding the medical uses of a number of them, such as cannabis for the treatment of certain epilepsies." (E/C.12/GC/25).

Adult use: the need for 3HR (Human Rights, Harm Reduction and Honest Research)

Although *Cannabis* use can generate dependence and health hazards, the overall rate of use disorders is relatively low. Serious adverse events are rare. The vast majority of harms can be prevented or mitigated. Policies play a critical role in making the address of these risks possible.

Prevention and education to safe, empowered and sensible consumption patterns and methods are the only tools known for reducing adverse effects and potential harms. In the event of dependence or adverse effects, the –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 07– **access to health care services should be totally free of stigma and criminalization**, which involves the non-criminalization of the use and possession (see also Goal 16).

There are real risks related to the presence of impurities and adulterants in herbal *Cannabis*, resin, extracts or other products manufactured in illegal settings. A regulated production would solve these issues. In any event, –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 08– **increased pharmacovigilance is needed, as well as a generalization of *Cannabis* product analysis and testing options** (including for consumers), **efficient share and use of collected data by health and social workers, and training in harm reduction** interventions at all levels (see Goal 4).

–RECOMMENDATION No. 03 09– **Honest, impartial and independent research on adult use and *Cannabis* products use disorder should be supported**, to determine the real potential of harms and design solutions addressing it among consumers.

Box 8 - Criminalization against health: the consensus of UN Chiefs

In 2010, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover recommended to Member States to "Ensure that all harm-reduction measures [...] and drug-dependence treatment services [...] are available to people who use drugs; [...] Decriminalize or de-penalize possession and use of drugs; Repeal or substantially reform laws and policies inhibiting the delivery of essential health services to drug users, and review law enforcement initiatives around drug control to ensure compliance with human rights obligations; Amend laws, regulations and policies to increase access to controlled essential medicines." He also declared that "the international drug control treaties include space for a number of good-faith interpretations that allow for domestic legislative reform, even in the absence of significant changes to the international drug control regime" (A/65/255)

In 2015, United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, invited countries to "consider alternatives to criminalization and incarceration of people who use drugs" (Statement for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illegal Trafficking 2015) joining the director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime who "highlighted the fact that the three international drug control conventions are founded on concern for the health

and welfare of humankind, and that a balanced approach necessitates applying the principle of proportionality to drug-related offences and offenders. Disproportionate responses do not serve the cause of justice, nor help to uphold the rule of law" (Yury Fedotov, statement) and stressed that "Drug users cannot be treated as criminals" in Vatican City in 2016 (Report, event 'Narcotics: problems and solutions to a global problem').

In 2019, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, composed by the heads of 31 United Nations agencies, committed to stepping up their joint efforts and supporting each other "to promote [...] in appropriate cases, [...] **the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use**" (CEB/2018/2)

Driving under the influence of *Cannabis* products

Laws should not criminalize driving motor vehicles on the basis of the simple presence of cannabinoids in the driver's body. –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 10– **Bioassays must be replaced by psychomotor, behavioral or cognitive tests: administrative sanctions should only be applied in the cases of impaired driving proven on the basis of such roadside psychometric sobriety tests.**

Box 9 - Impaired driving determination, in practice

"Because there is a poor correlation between Δ^9 -THC bodily content and driving impairment" the Impaired Driving Safety Commission of the Michigan State Police recommended in March 2019 "against the establishment of a threshold of Δ9 -THC bodily content for determining driving impairment, and instead recommends the use of a roadside sobriety test(s) to determine whether a driver is impaired" (Michigan Cannabis Impaired Driving Report)

Cannabis-based foodstuff for health

Food and food-products made from *Cannabis* seeds are rich in protein, essential amino acids, glutamic acid, and supply the exact ratio of essential fatty acids omega-6 and omega-3 the human body requires. –RECOMMENDATION No. 03 11– They should be considered, for instance, as **a tool in the replacement of proteins obtained from animals.**

CBD-based food and foodstuff, for their positive impact on the human body's homeostasis, can also contribute, as nutraceuticals, to improving overall health and wellbeing.

4

QUALITY EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION, AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 4·4
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH RELEVANT SKILLS FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS
TARGET 4·7
EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1A	1C	1D	1E	1H	1G	1I	1O	1Q	3B	4F	6D
7H	7J										

Education for health & *Cannabis* harm reduction

Demand of *Cannabis* for psychoactivity-related use (adult use) will likely not disappear in the short or mid-term. Policies should focus on hindering and delaying the first consumption via evidence-based and peer-led education and prevention, including in schools. Prevention programs should assist young people in making smarter, more informed decisions regarding their choice to use *Cannabis* or not, and if so, be informed of the potential harms of consumption and reduce them.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 04 01– **Governments should shift public spending on drugs, from law enforcement to health (in particular harm reduction, prevention, and education programs).**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 04 02– **Prevention campaigns based on fear, stigma, disinformation, or led by law-enforcement, must end. Public policies should seek to promote prevention and education on the use of *Cannabis* products that is grounded in evidence-based information, as well as non-judgmental and open to interactive dialogue, meaningfully inclusive, delivered by trained facilitators or peers, that fully incorporates harm reduction, and that pays close attention to the overlapping issues of gender, racism, social justice, and stigma.**

Research on, and with *Cannabis*, in all disciplines

The barriers to research and the lack of knowledge-sharing that prohibition has permitted, resulted in numerous gaps in general knowledge regarding ethnobotany, health and safe consumption patterns, as well as in many other areas and disciplines. –RECOMMENDATIONS No. 04 03 and 03 06– **Governments should facilitate permits and licences for scientific activities, and promote and fund independent research on all aspects of the *Cannabis* plant.**

Box 10 - Enjoying the benefits from scientific progress on Cannabis is a human right

According to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, governments "should harmonize the fulfilment of their obligations under the international drug control regime with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to participate and to enjoy the benefits from scientific progress and its applications, through a regular revision of its policies in relation to controlled substances. Prohibition of research in those substances are in principle limitations of the right to participate and to enjoy the benefits from scientific progress and its applications and should meet the requirements of article 4 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, of 1966 (A/RES/2200(XXI))]. Besides, because of the potential benefits for health of these controlled substances, these restrictions should also be weighed in relation to State Parties' obligations under article 12 of the Covenant" on the right to health (E/C.12/GC/25).

Training the legal *Cannabis* sector

There is an important gap in knowledge with regard to the professions required to operate legally regulated *Cannabis* markets (biosciences, horticultural, agronomics, consumers good fabrication, food safety and hygiene, sales, etc.)

–RECOMMENDATION No. 04 04– **Training and education in these fields, as well as cultural and environmental education, should benefit from the financial resources created by legally regulated *Cannabis* markets.**

Many young people and adults have developed important (but unrecognized) technical and entrepreneurial skills while involved in the illicit *Cannabis* economy.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 04 05– **Educational and training programs should prioritize people already involved in informal *Cannabis*-related activities (in particular cultivation, processing, and retail) to provide opportunities for reinsertion, while enhancing existing skills and dignifying traditional knowledge, when relevant.**

5

GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 5·1
END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
TARGET 5·A
EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1D	1K	3B	4B	4D	4G	4N	6D	7H	7J		

The disproportionate impact of prohibition on women

Focus of criminal prosecution, women almost systematically face disproportionate penalties, and degradant conditions of incarceration. –RECOMMENDATION No. 16 01– **Decriminalization of petty, non-violent *Cannabis*-related offences is key to protecting women.**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 05 01– **Specific criminal justice measures targeting women (e.g., withdrawal of child custody, hampering of the exercise of family rights) must be abolished without delay** (see Goals 10 and 16)**.**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 01 13– **Policies that include asset forfeiture and seizure of a *Cannabis* farmer's land must be repealed, as they predominantly and disproportionately affect women** (see Goal 1).

Box 11 - Disproportionate impact on women

In March 2020, the Joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS declared that "women are disproportionately affected by laws that criminalize drug use. Meanwhile, laws that uphold women's basic rights and protect them against harm and unequal treatment are far from the norm" (UNAIDS, Zero Discrimination Day 2020, Press release)

"Actions to be taken at the national and international levels [...]: 103(d) Take effective and expeditious measures to mobilize international and national public opinion concerning the effects of different dimensions of the world drug problem on women and girls and ensure that appropriate resources are provided to this end." Outcome document of the 23rd United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the Status of Women (A/RES/S-23/3)

"States shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against peasant women and other women working in rural areas and to promote their empowerment in order to ensure, on the basis of equality between men and women, that they fully and equally enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and that they are able to freely pursue, participate in and benefit from rural economic, social, political and cultural development." Article 4, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (A/RES/73/165)

Access to healthcare

Gender conditions are recognized as a problematic barrier in accessing healthcare systems (see Goal 3). –RECOMMENDATION No. 05 02– **Healthcare administrations and health-related research institutes should pay specific attention to the specificities of female *Cannabis* use, and gender-specific differences in health prevention, primary care and treatment approaches.**

A gender-specific focus to female adult use

The differential impact on women of problems linked to adult *Cannabis* use or to *Cannabis* policies calls for the design, development, and implementation of specific frameworks to promote, enforce, and monitor gender equality and non-discrimination (see Goal 4).

–RECOMMENDATION No. 05 03– **Health policies and strategies regarding the use of *Cannabis* products should adopt woman-specific approaches, include, and consult with women and affected populations at all levels.**

Box 12 - Empowerment of women's health

The "explicit recognition and reaffirmation of the right of all women to control all aspects of their health [...] is basic to [the] empowerment [of women]" Beijing Declaration, adopted at the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995 (UN Publication No. E.96.IV.13)

In March 2020, United Nations Member States reaffirmed their commitment to "strengthening efforts to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for women and girls throughout their life course and without discrimination of any kind" Political declaration on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/CN.6/2020/L.1)

Female leadership in the legal *Cannabis* industry

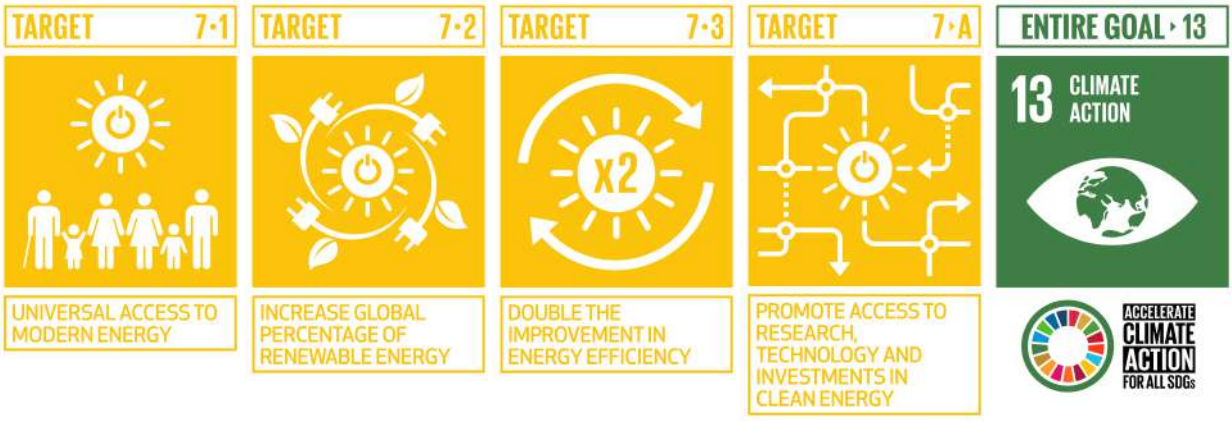
Female leadership in the legal *Cannabis* sector is superior to that of other market sectors, an element that **deserves** –RECOMMENDATION No. 05 04– **monitoring and encouragement.**

7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 7·1
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY
TARGET 7·2
INCREASE GLOBAL PERCENTAGE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
TARGET 7·3
X2
DOUBLE THE IMPROVEMENT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TARGET 7·A
PROMOTE ACCESS TO RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

4I | 6D | 7J

Cannabis to produce and store electricity

The capacities of the fibers obtained from the *Cannabis* plant for the production and storage of electricity can help ensure sustainable, reliable, and green energy for all, while decreasing dependency on fossil fuels and other polluting resources.

The biomass generated by *Cannabis* crops is an efficient and cheap source of renewable electricity, and Carbon nanosheets for electrodes made out from residual wastes of *Cannabis* plants outperform standard graphene-based supercapacitors.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 07 01– **R&D and market development of *Cannabis* plants as a source and storage of electricity should be fostered.**

Cannabis agriculture: Promoting a sustainable & low carbon footprint

Contrary to traditional outdoor or greenhouse sun growing, indoor *Cannabis* cultivation uses artificial light, heat, ventilation, humidity systems, automation, and irrigation.

This method of cultivation is a direct consequence of the need to hide crops, generated by repressive prohibition policies.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 07 02– **Legal regulations should correct this historical shift in production methods, and incentivize greenhouse and outdoor cultivation** – which have less detrimental impact on the environment, and an extremely low carbon footprint.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 07 03– **Incentives to ecological and sustainable cultivation should be mainstreamed in *Cannabis* and hemp policy reforms**, and include tools such as **standardization, incentives of professional field-bodies able to edit peer guidelines, limitation of the rate of indoor cultivation authorized per business. The application of a carbon-tax model to indoor *Cannabis* cultivation facilities should be considered.**

Box 13 - Ecological agriculture is a human right

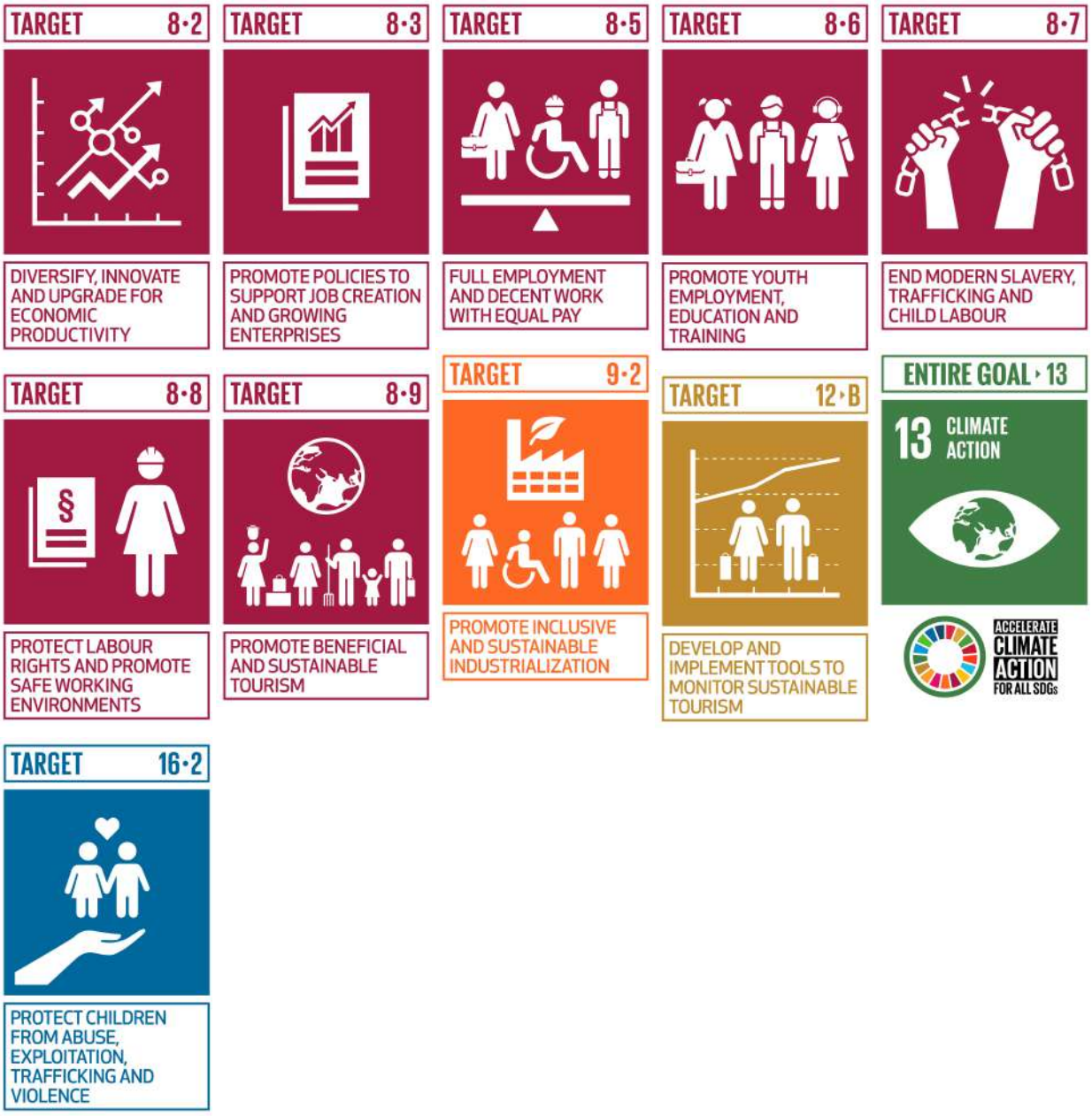
"Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to determine their own [agriculture] systems [...]. This includes the right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agriculture policy and the right to healthy and adequate food [and agricultural products] produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods that respect their cultures." (A/RES/73/165)

8

DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 8·2
DIVERSIFY, INNOVATE AND UPGRADE FOR ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY
TARGET 8·3
PROMOTE POLICIES TO SUPPORT JOB CREATION AND GROWING ENTERPRISES
TARGET 8·5
FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY
TARGET 8·6
PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
TARGET 8·7
END MODERN SLAVERY, TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR
TARGET 8·8
PROTECT LABOUR RIGHTS AND PROMOTE SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS
TARGET 8·9
PROMOTE BENEFICIAL AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
TARGET 9·2
PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION
TARGET 12·B
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT TOOLS TO MONITOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs
TARGET 16·2
PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

4A	4D	4I	5U	5V	5X	5Y	6D	7H	7I	7J	7K
7L											

The inherent insecurity of illegal labour

Working in illegal settings is inherently unsafe, insecure and will never be as decent as working in a legally regulated environment. Lack of regulatory protections, workplace safety oversight and insurance, but also constant pressure and threats from criminal organizations as well as law enforcement forces, make **labour in illicit settings** –RECOMMENDATION No. 08 01– **a preliminary and central target of policy reforms.**

People working in *Cannabis*-related jobs in the informal economy are at increased risk of potential insecurity in seven key areas identified by the International Labour Organization: employment, earnings, hours, occupational safety & health, social security coverage, training, representation, and other fundamental principles & rights at work. **Ahead of any reform, socio-economic studies and assessments of populations involved in illicit *Cannabis*-related work should be done**, taking particular account of young people, women, migrants and vulnerable groups.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 02– Once implemented, **policies should monitor the compliance of legally-regulated operations with labour rights, in particular in the seven key areas identified above**, respect the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, and foster sectorial workers' organizations and unions.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 03– **Governments must assist and monitor the transition of populations previously involved in *Cannabis* cultivation, from illicit production to a regulated and taxed market, and take particular care in ensuring that legal regulations benefit the people that are reliant on this income.** Opportunity must be seized to help small-scale farmers transition to legal settings, ensuring that opportunities are also given to small and medium-scale operations (see Goals 1, 10, 11 and 16).

Tackling forced or compulsory labour and modern forms of slavery

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 04– **Forced or compulsory labour in relation with *Cannabis*-related activities must be tackled with priority**, in particular as it relates to broader networks of exploitation or trafficking in human beings. Modern forms of slavery in either illegal or legally-regulated settings must be addressed and ended now.

Stigma = unemployment

Prohibition and criminalization contribute to increased stigma (negative attitudes or beliefs) and marginalisation of people who use *Cannabis* or undertake activities related to it. It acts as an important barrier to job and employment for people who use *Cannabis* products, and for people with criminal records for *Cannabis*-related offences. –RECOMMENDATION No. 08 05– **Fight *Cannabis*-related stigma at work**, for both people who use *Cannabis* products and for those with previous related records.

Box 14 - Stigma and marginalization, major threats to sustainable development

In 2008, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime recognized that an unintended consequence of current drug policies had been the creation of "a system [...] in which those who fall into the web of addiction find themselves excluded and marginalized from the social mainstream, tainted with a moral stigma" (UN Publication No. E.08.XI.1)

The Government of Canada considers that "people who use drugs, and their families, most commonly face the following types of stigma: social stigma, structural stigma, self-stigma [...] Stigma can affect a person's ability to find housing and jobs, which in turn affects their overall health and quality of life." (Website of the Government of Canada - Health Canada - Stigma around substance use)

Job creation, via a diversely-shaped sector and sound tax policies

All forecasts on the development of legally regulated markets for *Cannabis* show the expected positive impact on job and employment. On one hand, large-scale legal *Cannabis* industries which develop new technologies for cultivation, fertilization, processing, and manufacturing of the plant, require specific workforce. On the other hand, smaller operations which tend to focus on regenerative agricultural methodologies, increases in productivity and sustainability and reduction of their environmental impact, have a potential for employment of workers with different skills. Both are complementary, and needed in legally regulated settings. Reforms should seek a diversity of socio-economic profiles among entrepreneurs, to increase the numbers of jobs created.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 06– **Public policies should adopt progressive, social, and sound tax policies that are differentiative**, in order to **foster local investment & ownership over legal *Cannabis* operations, for all.**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 07– **Reforms should also encourage and facilitate the creation of *Cannabis* farmers cooperatives.**

In all cases (even for larger businesses) taxes waged by legal *Cannabis* businesses should be reasonable and proportionate, for the legal market to compete with the prices of the informal market.

Jobs for all, in villages & cities

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 08– Legally regulated *Cannabis* cultivation, manufacturing, and trade are **suitable to village-development and local employment of women and youth, as well as people with disabilities**, as most jobs in the sector are capable of being performed by them.

It is also suitable for **cities or suburbs where job opportunities are scarce**, in middle- and high-income countries.

Legal *Cannabis* to tackle depopulation

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 09– Programs that foster the cultivation of *Cannabis* in remote areas and villages, with the goal of **tackling depopulation** by encouraging people to settle and engage in long-term jobs in the rural *Cannabis* production sector, should be **encouraged as experiments to foster rural development**.

Removing banking barriers, providing financial support

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 10– Authorities must **ensure that banking, financial and insurance services are not denied** to legally-regulated *Cannabis* operations.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 11– Options such as **microcredit should be contemplated** to incentivize the transition of small-scale farmers' crops to legal requirements.

Cannabis and tourism vs. *Cannabis* for tourism

Cannabis has a long historical relationship with travels, travellers, and tourism. The plant magnifies the development of tourism, particularly in regions where its use or cultivation are traditional. Yet, uncontrolled, unregulated and mass tourism can cause social dislocation, loss of cultural heritage, economic dependence and/or ecological degradation.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 08 12– **Sustainable tourism guidelines and indicators must be followed**. Multimodal tourist attractions (combining cultural, agro-, or eco-tourism, with therapeutic/health tourism or with leisure-led tourism) should be preferred against *Cannabis*-centered tourism.

Box 15 - Sustainable tourism, in practice

The United Nations World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly published in 2005 an essential guide for policymakers titled "Making Tourism More Sustainable" followed in 2012 by a complementary report titled "Tourism in the Green Economy." In 2012, the United Nations World Tourism Organization published the "Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook - Enhancing capacities for Sustainable Tourism for development in developing countries."

The multiple impacts of collective intellectual property rights

The 2020 decade opened with the entry into force of a new Treaty on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (the Geneva Act to the Lisbon Agreement) to complement the World Trade Organization TRIPs Agreement. With (or without) adhesion to this new legal instrument, –RECOMMENDATION No. 11 03– **traditional *Cannabis* products should be granted collectively-held Geographic Indications (as well as Appellations of Origin or equivalent *sui generis* collective or certification marks, when relevant)** so that local communities in traditional areas of cultivation can benefit from such systems, beyond the products protected, for the **promotion of sustainable tourism, increased job creation, community ownership, and a fair distribution of profits, while preserving local cultures, knowledge, and products**.

Box 16 - AOs and GIs beyond the products

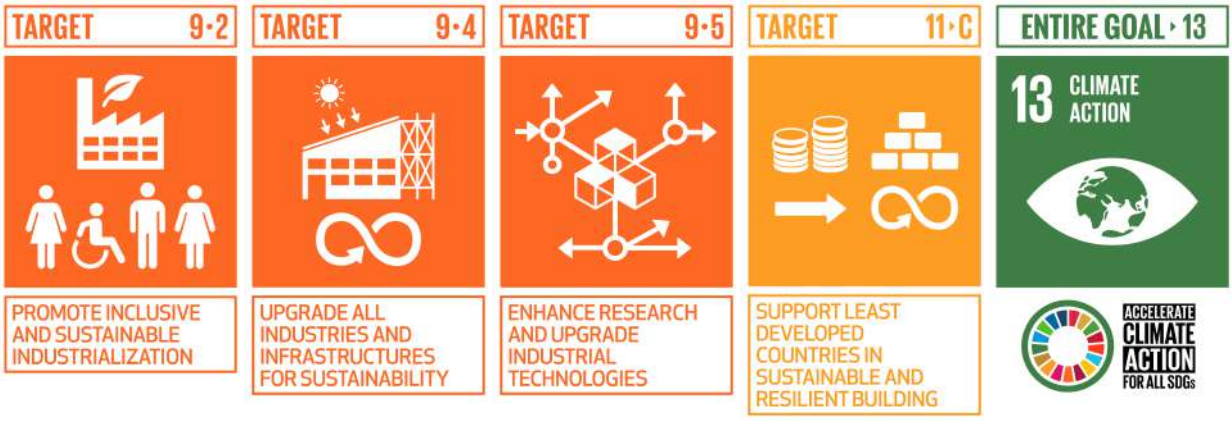
The Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (Geneva Act) defines **Appellations of Origin** as "any denomination protected in the Contracting Party of Origin consisting of or containing the name of a geographical area, or another denomination known as referring to such area, which serves to designate a good as originating in that geographical area, where the quality or characteristics of the good are due exclusively or essentially to the geographical environment, including natural and human factors, and which has given the good its reputation" and **Geographical Indications** as "any indication protected in the Contracting Party of Origin consisting of or containing the name of a geographical area, or another indication known as referring to such area, which identifies a good as originating in that geographical area, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin." (WIPO Publication No. 239)

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 9·2
PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION
TARGET 9·4
UPGRADE ALL INDUSTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABILITY
TARGET 9·5
ENHANCE RESEARCH AND UPGRADE INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES
TARGET 11·C
SUPPORT LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT BUILDING
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

6D | 7H | 7I | 7J | 7K | 7L

Cannabis for plastics and composite materials

Non psychoactivity-related products of the *Cannabis* plant have proven to efficiently –RECOMMENDATION No. 12 01– **replace synthetic or petroleum-based materials**, being high performance and environmentally-friendly. **Biocomposites** made of *Cannabis* fibres (polypropylene, polyethylene, polyester) are **resistant, durable, cost-effective**, and for these reasons already widely used commercially (for furniture, roofing shingles, bioplastic, cars package trays, car vehicles door panels, etc). Such a material is **key to building resilient and environment-friendly infrastructures and industries.**

Cannabis for concrete and paints

–RECOMMENDATION No. 09 01– Authorities should **foster the use of *Cannabis*-based building materials** such as "hempcrete" (concrete made of *Cannabis* fibers) and seed-pressed oils (used for paints and sealants), and consider local sourcing to **incentivize re-localised markets for infrastructure construction and rehabilitation**.

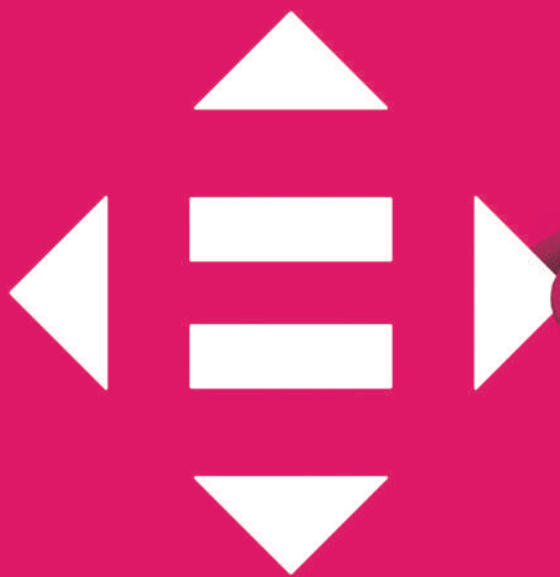
Cannabis for carbon sequestration

As *Cannabis* sequesters important quantities of carbon dioxide during its growth, the territorial repartition of these crops can –RECOMMENDATION No. 09 02– **help existing non-disruptive geoengineering strategies to overcome the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.**

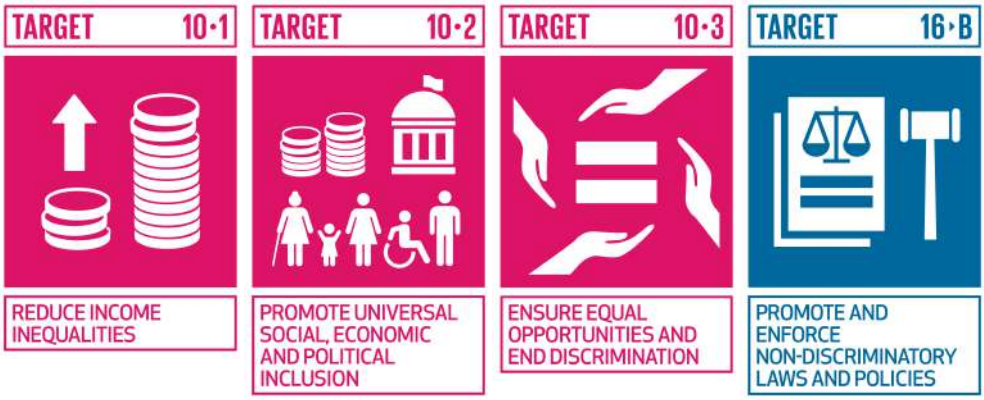
10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES



RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1D	3B	3D	4A	4B	4H	4I	5U	5V	5X	5Y	6A
6D	7B	7H	7I	7J	7K	7L					

Prohibition is incompatible with Goal 10

The Sustainable Development Goal 10 can not be met as long as *Cannabis* (and other drugs) use, possession, and related activities continue to be handled by the criminal Justice system, and as long as users, possessors, or other affected populations continue to be criminalized, stigmatized, and undermined in their rights.

Therefore –RECOMMENDATION No. 16 01– **stop criminalizing possession and consumption of *Cannabis* and its derivatives.**

Box 17 - Ending laws that discriminate

In 2019, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS declared that "laws – such as laws on [...] the use or possession of drugs for personal use [...] – may discriminate by criminalizing conduct or identity. [...] States have a moral and legal obligation—under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights treaties, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international obligations—to remove discriminatory laws and to enact laws that protect people from discrimination." (UNAIDS, Changing laws that discriminate). The same year, they called to "protect and promote the human rights of people who use drugs by treating them with dignity, providing equal access to health and social services, and by decriminalizing drug use/consumption and the possession, purchase and cultivation of drugs for personal use. [...] Where drugs remain illegal, adapt and reform laws to ensure that people who use drugs have access to justice (including legal services) and do not face punitive or coercive sanctions for personal use, and that policing measures encourage people to access harm reduction and health services voluntarily. Ensure the principle of proportionality is applied for drug-related crimes, and put in place public health-based alternatives to incarceration, administrative penalties and other forms of corrective action." (UNAIDS, Health, rights and drugs).

See also Box 8.

Ending "drug courts" and *sui generis* Justice systems for drug offences

–RECOMMENDATION No. 10 01– **"Drug courts" and other *sui generis* expeditious justice systems** based on exceptionality, unjustified judicialization, and that reaffirms criminal justice as central in the public policy response to health-related hazards, **must be abandoned**.

Equality of opportunities: avoiding barriers to entry in the legal industry

Sustainable *Cannabis* policies should include equality of opportunities and non-discrimination at their core.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 10 02– **There shall be no barriers to entry into the legal industry (be they financial, administrative, technical, or of any other kind) for communities previously involved in illicit *Cannabis*-related activities.**

Amnesty, expungement, remedy, and reparations

–RECOMMENDATION No. 10 03– **Populations affected** by human rights violations generated by prohibition policies **must be granted their full right to remedy and reparation**, through programs for equity and inclusiveness in legally regulated *Cannabis* markets (see Goals 1 and 8), and through amnesty and/or definitive expungement of historically unjust convictions and criminal records (see Goal 16).

During transition periods, –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 04– **access to legally-regulated markets cannot be restricted for people with prior drug-related convictions.**

Reforms could be anticipated by proposing –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 05– **education and training programs for people incarcerated for *Cannabis*-related offences, on a voluntary basis, to expedite and support their reintegration.**

Box 18 - A focus on the right to restitution

Among the five United Nations principles of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition granted in the 2005 Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law (A/RES/60/147), it should be noted that "restitution should, whenever possible, restore the victim to the original situation before the gross violations of international human rights law [...] occurred. Restitution includes, as appropriate: restoration of liberty, enjoyment of human rights, identity, family life and citizenship, return to one's place of residence, restoration of employment and return of property"

See also Box 28.

Monitoring racism and discriminations in *Cannabis* policies

The overwhelming majority of those accused or convicted for *Cannabis*-related offences are part of ethnic minorities, migrants, foreign nationals, asylum seekers or people in irregular situations, indigenous and native populations, LGBTQI+ people, socially marginalized people and the youth. *Cannabis* policy reforms need –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 06– **targeted mechanisms for these groups, and need to monitor the impact that reforms undertaken have on these populations.**

Box 19 - Living free of racial discrimination is a human right

In the Durban Declaration and Program of Action on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/CONF.189/12), the international community recognized (among other) "that members of certain groups with a distinct cultural identity face barriers arising from a complex interplay of ethnic, religious and other factors, as well as their traditions and customs, and [called] upon States to ensure that measures, policies and programmes aimed at eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance address the barriers that this interplay of factors creates."

"States Parties [to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination] condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms" (A/RES/2106(XX))

Cannabis social clubs: a pioneering social innovation

The lack of regulation of *Cannabis* has created a niche for local social innovation to occur, resulting in novel, avant-garde forms of customary or *de facto* self-regulated models for the production and supply of *Cannabis* products, filling the regulatory gap.

The best example of social innovation in this field are the so-called *Cannabis social clubs* (nonprofit gathering of growers and users in a closed-loop system of self-supply). They have unfolded in several jurisdictions, rooted in the defense of the right to privacy and freedom of association. Research has shown positive social and health outcomes for the users members of *Cannabis clubs*, as well as for neighboring environments.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 10 07– **All initiatives of local, bottom-up social innovation in *Cannabis* policy should be fostered**, and –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 08– ***Cannabis social clubs* should be fully contemplated in legal regulations.** They could also serve as an example for other fields of the economy.

Towards a multimodal model of regulation: integrating social innovation in *Cannabis* policies

To address the various kinds of demand, tackle the complex issues at stake, and increase positive social, economic and environmental impacts, there is a need to regulate an array of various modalities for production, supply, and access.

A specific model for medical access should be sought, separated from the for-profit adult use market – without prejudice to the freedom of patients to choose their sort and modalities of treatment. **Multimodal regulation is needed**, as recreational demand risks overwhelming a monomodal regulation model.

In addition, –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 09– **home growing for one's own consumption is a fundamental right that cannot be prohibited or unduly restricted**.

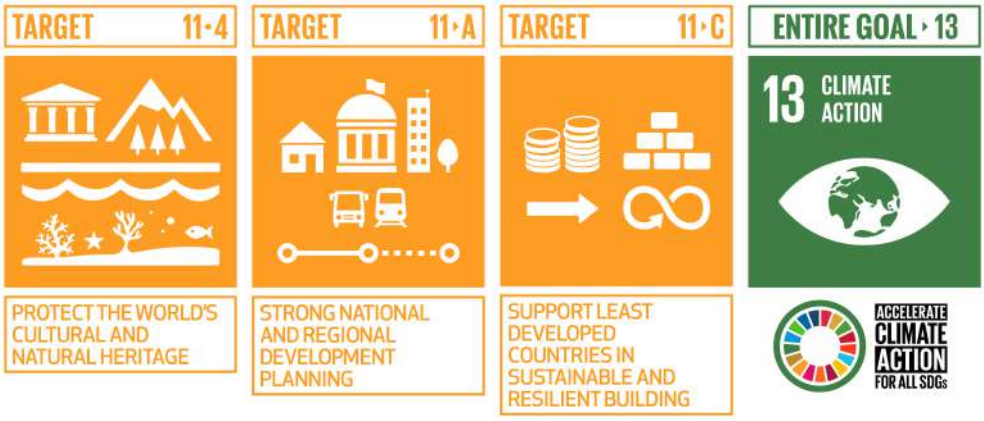
–RECOMMENDATION No. 10 10– **Legal regulations should consider the six following ways of legal access as foundational to any sound and sustainable *Cannabis* policy: (a) pre-existing pharmaceutical medical system, (b) pre-existing herbal (or traditional, where relevant) medical system, (c) specific provisions allowing for self-cultivation, (d) specific provisions allowing for not-for-profit collective systems, (e) a commercial industry for adult use, and (f) pre-existing regulations for food, cosmetics, and other industrial products.**

11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 11·4
PROTECT THE WORLD'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE
TARGET 11·A
STRONG NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
TARGET 11·C
SUPPORT LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT BUILDING
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

3B	3D	4A	4D	4I	6A	7H	7I	7K	7L		

Yes, your local weed dealer has skills and popular knowledge

Legal regulations of *Cannabis* provides the opportunity to promote (legal) employment throughout the production and distribution chains at the local level, with a focus on people already involved in these activities informally, and/or with a past record of non-violent *Cannabis*-related offences.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 11 01– **Policies should foster local integration and inclusion, drawing on popular skills, knowledge and expertise.**

Assisting the transition for historical areas of production or retail

–RECOMMENDATION No. 11 02– **Regulations should assist specific regions or neighborhoods (not only where cultivation, but also where retail distribution has been historically implanted) in transitioning towards legal settings**, which can result in increased development, income and employment for these stigmatized or impoverished areas.

Geographical Indications and Appellations of Origin to protect the cultural and natural heritage

A wide spectrum of incentives for local licit *Cannabis* markets that empower communities (as mentioned in the previous goals), is key for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of traditional rural *Cannabis*-producing regions.

In addition, –RECOMMENDATION No. 11 03– **reforming *Cannabis* policies in tandem with the development of collective intellectual property protections** (Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin, or other *sui generis* models) **for traditional or craft *Cannabis* products has the potential to provide legal support and protection of both cultural and natural heritage.** The documentation of traditional knowledge on *Cannabis* should always be carefully undertaken to protect communities' rights and ownership.

Box 20 - Risks faced by traditional knowledge

For the World Intellectual Property Organization, "Intellectual Property refers to creations of the mind such as inventions, designs, literary and artistic works, performances, plant varieties, and names, signs and symbols. In recent years, indigenous peoples, local communities, and governments – mainly in developing countries – have demanded Intellectual Property protection for traditional forms of creativity and innovation, which, under the conventional intellectual property system, are generally regarded as being in the public domain, and thus free for anyone to use. Indigenous peoples, local communities and many countries reject a 'public domain' status of Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions, and argue that this opens them up to unwanted misappropriation and misuse." (WIPO Publication No. 933)

Cultivation in urban areas as a lever for greener cities

One of the latest developments of *Cannabis* markets under prohibition has been the apparition, in countries with the most important rates of use, of small-scale urban and peri-urban farmers dedicated to individual or collective self-production.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 11 04– These urban and peri-urban crops should be seen as an opportunity to **foster greener cities**, and could be instrumental in **establishing sustainable links between urban settlements and rural areas**. They can be a tool to facilitate **circular economy** and community empowerment with practical models of ethnosphere preservation and sustainable agricultural practices, for instance in the use of wastes or in diversifying towards non-psychoactive derivatives.

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 12·2
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TARGET 12·3
50%
HALVE GLOBAL PER CAPITA FOOD WASTE
TARGET 12·5
SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION
TARGET 12·A
SUPPORT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
TARGET 12·B
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT TOOLS TO MONITOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1I | 10 | 6D

Hemp products as alternative green materials

Almost all products, byproducts and wastes from the *Cannabis* plant can be reused or recycled, and are biodegradable.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 12 01– **The alternative that hemp (*Cannabis* for non psychoactivity-related purposes) represents, for paper, plastic, biofuel, building materials, and clothes, should be taken into consideration while developing strategies to manage and reduce the use of wastes, of fossil fuel and other non-renewable resources.**

Moving towards a producer-to-consumer model

Cannabis is already grown and used in every country in the world. –RECOMMENDATION No. 11 04– **Local low carbon footprint producer-to-consumer supply models can easily be implemented, and should be favored.**

Rethinking agriculture with hemp

–RECOMMENDATION No. 12 02– Non-psychoactivity related *Cannabis* crops ('hemp') are a perfect candidate to contribute to increased value-added and productivity in the agricultural sector.

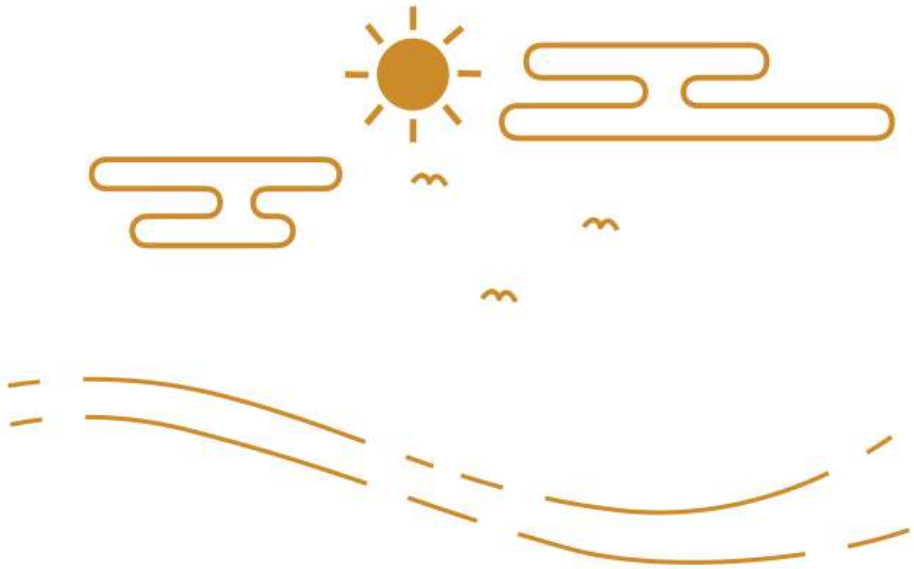
For instance, partially **substituting cotton fields with non psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* crops can increase productivity while drastically reducing water consumption for irrigation.**

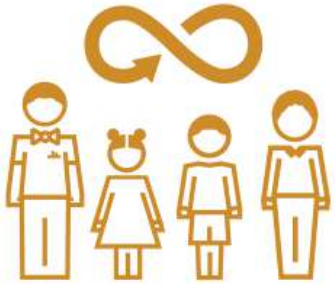
The high biomass production of *Cannabis* has multiple advantages for increasing efficiency and income, while reducing costs for farmers (carbon sequestration, weed control, and also recycling of waste and overproduction). Excess of plant biomass can be turned into biochar to fertilize soils, bioplastic materials or biofuel.

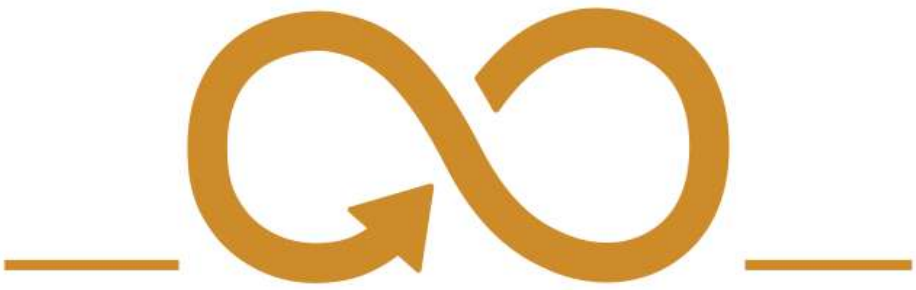
Moving towards responsible uses of *Cannabis* products

Another type of responsible consumption, involving the very use of *Cannabis* derivatives, relates to Goals 3 and 4.

International cooperation should be increased to exchange good practices and train the social and health care sector in evidence-based and rational education to *Cannabis* products use and related risk –and to orientate people who use *Cannabis* towards sustainable consumption patterns, focused on reducing potential harms and empowering informed consumer choices.







13 CLIMATE ACTION

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

-ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM FOR NEGOTIATING THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

41 7G

A transversal contribution to the global action on climate change

Although there is no specific target of Goal 13 to which *Cannabis* directly relates, this toolkit refers on numerous occasions to that plant and its policies as an important lever for climate action in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly its goals 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17.

While the plant fails to fit the Agenda's targets, it does answer the general "call to accelerate climate action for all Goals", and the related mandate "to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations" (A/RES/70/1).

Box 21 - Climate emergency

The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, declared in March 2020: "Time is fast running out for us to avert the worst impacts of climate disruption and protect our societies from the inevitable impacts to come [...] I call on everyone – from government, civil society and business leaders to individual citizens – to heed these facts and take urgent action to halt the worst effects of climate change" (World Meteorological Organization, WMO Publication No. 1248)

CLIMATE ACTION

Towards operational ethnobotanical relationships between *Homo sapiens* and *Cannabis sativa*

The way *Homo sapiens* and *Cannabis sativa* interrelate and interact, from an ethnobotanical perspective, needs improvement in order to participate in building green and resilient societies, in every single country.

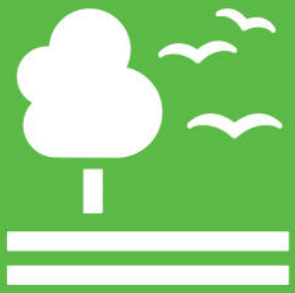
Many findings presented in this report show that the *Cannabis* plant and sustainable policy reforms provide a toolkit to help mitigate climate change, and tackle its effects.

Cannabis and its policies might not be at the core of multilateral action on climate change, yet they claim to be an influencing factor on multiple climate-related outcomes: positively in the case of the plant's potential (e.g., uses of the plant for the numerous non psychoactivity-related 'hemp' purposes, or green energy production...) or negatively in the case of failed policies (e.g., deforestation caused by illicit crops driven by criminal groups, increased energy consumption due to unregulated indoor cultivation...).

Cannabis, its people and its policies might not save the world. Yet they deserve to play a role in transforming our planet and its inhabitants for the better.

Box 22 - Harmony with *Mother Earth*

In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly declared that "peasants [person who engages, alone, or in association with others or as a community, in small-scale agricultural production for subsistence and/or for the market, and who relies significantly, though not necessarily exclusively, on family or household labour and other non-monetized ways of organizing labour, and who has a special dependency on and attachment to the land] and other people working in rural areas should be supported in their efforts to promote and undertake sustainable practices of agricultural production that support and are in harmony with nature, also referred to as Mother Earth in a number of countries and regions, including by respecting the biological and natural ability of ecosystems to adapt and regenerate through natural processes and cycles" (A/RES/73/165)

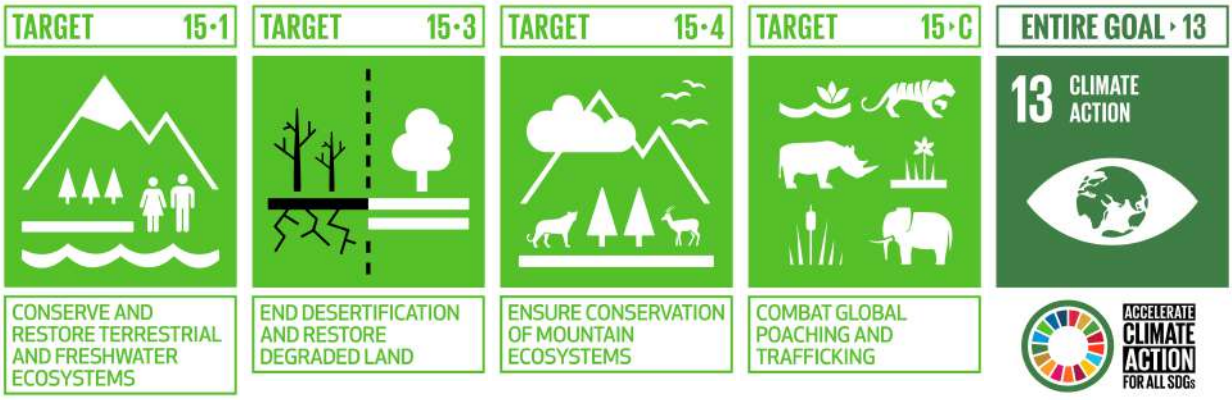


15

ECOSYSTEMS & LIFE ON LAND

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT & REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 15·1
CONSERVE AND RESTORE TERRESTRIAL AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS
TARGET 15·3
END DESERTIFICATION AND RESTORE DEGRADED LAND
TARGET 15·4
ENSURE CONSERVATION OF MOUNTAIN ECOSYSTEMS
TARGET 15·C
COMBAT GLOBAL POACHING AND TRAFFICKING
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

3A	3D	4A	4H	4I	6D	7G					

When repression pushed farmers to grow in remote fragile ecosystems

The repression of illicit cultivation pushed farmers away, forcing them to cultivate in more protected areas, but also more remote (and biologically fragile) areas such as forests or mountains.

***Cannabis* policy and legal regulations reduce the likelihood of fragile ecosystems being deteriorated by unregulated crops.**

The illicit market won't follow good environmental practices

It is unlikely that criminal organizations involved in illicit trafficking in *Cannabis* consider environmental outputs in their strategies. However, legal regulations and standards do, and should also **lay the framework for legal *Cannabis* farmers to** –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 01– **develop environmentally friendly practices and strategies.**

Towards a multi-crop agriculture including *Cannabis*

Cannabis is best planted with a wide range of other plants (companion planting), which fosters biodiversity and enhances flowering *Cannabis* to become a source of pollen for foraging bees. –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 02– **Agricultural policies and programs should encourage crop diversification not only within the genus *Cannabis*, but also with other crops.**

Cannabis crops for the phytoremediation of contaminated soil and water

Numerous preliminary studies suggest that –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 03– **research and development on the potential of *Cannabis* plants in phytoremediation and phytoextraction for contaminated soil and water should be encouraged.**

Hemp should have been legal worldwide since 1961

To unfold the full potential of non psychoactivity-related *Cannabis* for the environment, **all governments should** –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 04– **rely on the total exemption by purpose from the 1961 Single Convention on narcotic drugs of all "industrial uses of the *Cannabis* plant"** instead of the problematic interpretation of exemption by botanical parts (i.e., strictly "fibre and seeds"). See Box 4.

Prioritizing rural, craft, small-scale, community-held and traditional farmers

–RECOMMENDATION No. 15 05– **Rural, craft, small-scale, community-held traditional *Cannabis* production models should be prioritized over monoculture**, and supported via the recognition of collective intellectual property protections (see Goal 11) to increase market viability, rural economic development and environmental health, among others.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 15 01– **Regulations and standards should include good environmental practices and foster organic cultivation.**

Farmers' and peasants' rights for biodiversity

In alignment with the United Nations post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, *Cannabis* and its genetic resources should be subject to policies that ensure a fair and equitable access and benefit-sharing, including non-monetary benefits, for all, internationally.

In order to preserve and proliferate the genetic heritage and thriving biodiversity of the *Cannabis* plant, which has been conserved, improved and made available by generations of farmers, peasants, indigenous people and rural communities, –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 06– policies must allow continuity by **fully granting to *Cannabis* peasants the Farmers Rights contained in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, over and above any breeders' privilege.**

For *Cannabis* as for other crops, –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 07– **digital sequence information (genetic sequencing data) must be considered an integral part of the seeds**, and not a parallel, distinct regulatory object. The rights of farmers and peasants must apply the same way to digital genetic sequences of information, than to seeds.

Box 23 - Fair and equitable benefit-sharing of plant resources is a human right

In Article 9 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plant Treaty), countries "recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources." Governments "agree that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights [...] rests with national governments" and that they should "take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including: (a) protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; (b) the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and (c) the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture" while reaffirming the "rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material."

In the Convention on Biological Diversity, countries committed to ensure "compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components" and to "respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices" (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8).

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Nagoya Protocol) provides for a framework to help ensure that no one is left behind.

Synthetic Biology, GMOs and dysbiosynthetic phytocannabinoids

Since novel biotechnologies (such as synthetic biology, new gene editing in *Cannabis* plants, and obtention of phytocannabinoids via other genetically engineered living organisms, etc.) are rapidly emerging –RECOMMENDATION No. 15 08– **public policies must always favour the use of natural, unedited genetic material and natural organisms** and move with extreme care, following the criteria of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (cbd.int/cop) as well as the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/INF/2019/12).

Applying the principles of BioTrade to the Cannabis and hemp economy

–RECOMMENDATION No. 15 09– **All *Cannabis* policies (including those related to hemp) should follow the principles and criteria of BioTrade** (and the UNCTAD guide *BioTrade and Access and Benefit Sharing: from concept to practice, a handbook for policymakers and regulators*).

Box 24 - *Cannabis* BioTrade, in practice

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "BioTrade involves the collection, production, transformation and commercialization of goods and services derived from native biodiversity (species and ecosystems) under environmental, social and economic sustainability criteria [...] The underlying premise of BioTrade is that biodiversity based products — if sourced and elaborated with respect for equity, fairness and sustainability principles — can also provide a strong basis for local livelihoods, respect for traditional practices and values, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity." (BioTrade and Access and Benefit Sharing: From concept to practice. A handbook for policymakers and regulators, UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2017/6)

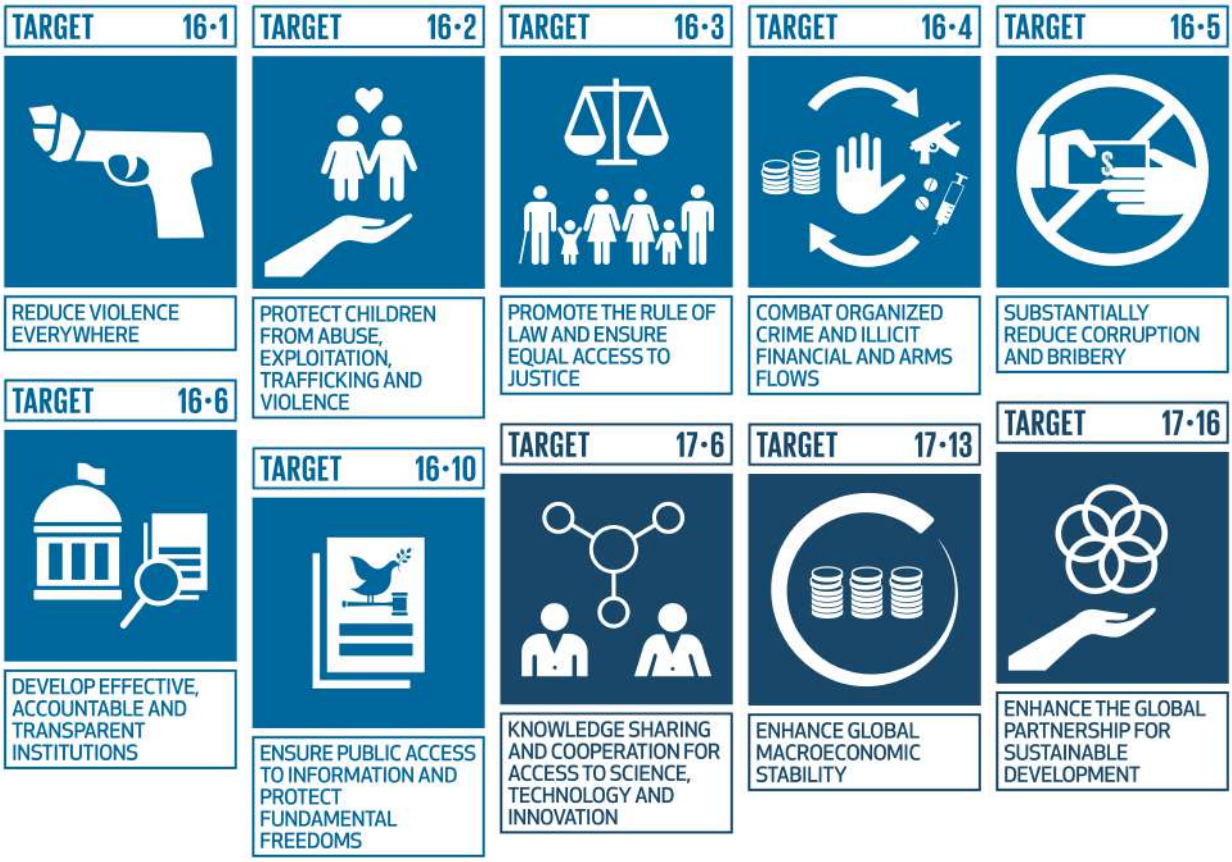
Because "not all commercial use of biological resources is sustainable," the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has adopted 7 BioTrade Principles (Conservation of biodiversity; Sustainable use of biodiversity; Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity; Socio-economic sustainability (productive, financial and market management); Compliance with national and international regulations; Respect for the rights of actors involved in BioTrade activities; Clarity about land tenure, use and access to natural resources and knowledge), each of them subdivided in specific criteria to be met by stakeholders and the private sector (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2007/4)

16

PEACE, JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PROMOTE PEACEFUL & INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE & INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

RELEVANT **TARGETS & GOALS** OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 16·1
REDUCE VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE
TARGET 16·2
PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE
TARGET 16·3
PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE
TARGET 16·4
COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL AND ARMS FLOWS
TARGET 16·5
SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY
TARGET 16·6
DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS
TARGET 16·10
ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
TARGET 17·6
KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COOPERATION FOR ACCESS TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
TARGET 17·13
ENHANCE GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC STABILITY
TARGET 17·16
ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RELEVANT **OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS** FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3G	3I	3J	3K	3L	3M	3O
3P	3Q	3R	3S	3T	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F	4G
4H	4I	4J	4K	4L	4M	4N	4O	5B	5P	5R	5U
5V	5X	5Y	6A	6B	6C	6D	6E	7A	7H	7L	OP. § 9

Prohibition *vs* People

Cannabis policies based on prohibition (like any prohibition policy) have massively hampered the cultural, social, economic, civil and political rights of entire communities, and particularly undermined the human dignity of the people who use *Cannabis*. During the first two decades of the 21st Century, several Supreme and Constitutional Courts (like those of Argentina, Colombia, Georgia, Italy, Mexico and South Africa) reached similar conclusions: **the prohibition of personal adult use (and self-cultivation) of *Cannabis* violates the fundamental right to privacy and to the free development of personality.**

–RECOMMENDATION No. 16 01– **All personal, petty, non-violent *Cannabis*-related activities should be dejudiciarized** (*i.e.*, **not only non-criminalized, but withdrawn from the scope of criminal laws at all**).

PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS DO NOT LOSE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS
Decriminalize the personal use and possession of drugs.
Ensure harm reduction measures are available to drug users, including in prisons.
Ensure proportionate sentencing of people convicted of drug-related offences.
Prefer alternatives to imprisonment for minor, non-violent offences.
End discrimination and stigmatisation of drug users.
End the death penalty for drug-related offences.
End impunity for those responsible for extrajudicial killings and torture of drug suspects.
End prosecution of children for drug offences.
Allow indigenous peoples to use drugs when part of their traditional or religious practices.
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Box 25 - Criminalization violates human rights

In 2009, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak, found that "a number of human rights have been affected by how drug control policies are currently shaped, both at the international and national levels. This is particularly true for the two ends of the 'drug continuum', which share the brunt of the burden of current drug-control policies: the production side, because those who cultivate the plants used to produce narcotic drugs depend on them for their livelihood; and the consumer side [...] because it runs a greatly increased risk of discrimination, criminalization and, as a result, of falling victim to a large range of human rights violations" (A/HRC/10/44)

In 2019, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, composed by the heads of 31 United Nations agencies, committed to stepping up their joint efforts and supporting each other "to promote alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate cases, including **the decriminalization of drug possession for personal use**, and to promote the principle of proportionality", and underscored that "the multifaceted nature of the [drug policy] problem requires a comprehensive approach that includes law enforcement efforts ensuring people's security and **efforts promoting health, human rights, including equality and non-discrimination**, and sustainable development" (CEB/2018/2)

See also Box 8.

Demilitarizing drug control and legal *Cannabis*, training the police to human rights standards

Cannabis "supply reduction" has been almost exclusively focused on customs, police, or even military operations, participating in a vicious circle that fuels violence among criminal groups, and on its turn escalates the brutality among law enforcement and public officials.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 16 02– **Public space and institutions need to be demilitarized. The police and public security forces must urgently be trained to embed ethics and human rights principles in their daily practice.**

The overall reduction of violence in society is a priority that must be integrated at the core of *Cannabis* policy reforms, as a goal and as a parameter. –RECOMMENDATION No. 16 03– **Legal regulations must avoid imposing overly burdensome security requirements on *Cannabis* operators** which risk militarizing the legal sector and have been shown to fuel violence.

Box 26 - Prohibition violates human rights

In 2009, the United Nations Special Rapporteur Manfred Nowak was also of the opinion that "the international drug control system has evolved practically detached from the United Nations human rights machinery" (A/HRC/10/44)

In 2010, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover, considered that "the current international system of drug control has focused on creating a drug-free world, almost exclusively through use of law enforcement policies and criminal sanctions. Mounting evidence, however, suggests this approach has failed, primarily because it does not acknowledge the realities of drug use and dependence. While drugs may have a pernicious effect on individual lives and society, this excessively punitive regime has not achieved its stated public health goals, and has resulted in countless human rights violations" (A/65/255)

Rule of law, proportionality of sentencing, and right to remedy & reparations

Drug policies have evolved and now reach levels in some parts of the world where fear, torture, and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments, arbitrary detention, and the use of lethal force or arbitrary executions have been normalized. These are the symbol of the failure of governments to tackle illicit drug trafficking while respecting the rule of law.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 16 04– **Policies must shift away from the framework of exceptionality, and a total proportionality must be applied in penal and administrative sanctions. The rule of law must prevail.**

–RECOMMENDATIONS Nos. 10 03 and 01 13– **Along with any policy reform, legal measures of investigation, truth and justice should be launched; the fundamental right to remedy and reparation must be fully granted**, with a particular focus on the principles of satisfaction and the guarantees of non-repetition.

Box 27 - A focus on the rights to satisfaction and to guarantees of non-repetition

The United Nations General Assembly explains that **satisfaction** consists of "(a) Effective measures aimed at the cessation of continuing violations; (b) Verification of the facts and full and public disclosure of the truth to the extent that such disclosure does not cause further harm or threaten the safety and interests of the victim, the victim's relatives, witnesses, or persons who have intervened to assist the victim or prevent the occurrence of further violations; (c) The search for the whereabouts of the disappeared, for the identities of the children abducted, and for the bodies of those killed, and assistance in the recovery, identification and reburial of the bodies in accordance with the expressed or presumed wish of the victims, or the cultural practices of the families and communities; (d) An official declaration or a judicial decision restoring the dignity, the reputation and the rights of the victim and of persons closely connected with the victim; (e) Public apology, including acknowledgement of the facts and acceptance of responsibility; (f) Judicial and administrative sanctions against persons liable for the violations; (g) Commemorations and tributes to the victims; (h) Inclusion of an accurate account of the violations that occurred in international human rights law and international humanitarian law training and in educational material at all levels"

Similarly, the **guarantees of non-repetition** consist of "(a) Ensuring effective civilian control of military and security forces; (b) Ensuring that all civilian and military proceedings abide by international standards of due process, fairness and impartiality; (c) Strengthening the independence of the judiciary; (d) Protecting persons in the legal, medical and health-care professions, the media and other related professions, and human rights defenders; (e) Providing, on a priority and continued basis, human rights and international humanitarian law education to all sectors of society and training for law enforcement officials as well as military and security forces; (f) Promoting the observance of codes of conduct and ethical norms, in particular international standards, by public servants, including law enforcement, correctional, media, medical, psychological, social service and military personnel, as well as by economic enterprises; (g) Promoting mechanisms for preventing and monitoring social conflicts and their resolution; (h) Reviewing and reforming laws contributing to or allowing gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law." (A/RES/60/147)

See also Box 28.

Social justice, reintegration, retroactivity

To discontinue and discourage illegal cultivation, small-scale farmers must be offered viable opportunities in the legal economy via proactive measures of social justice.

–RECOMMENDATIONS Nos. 10 02, 10 04, 10 05, and 11 01– **It is crucial to prioritize the integration in legally-regulated markets of people currently involved in illicit production or trafficking in *Cannabis* products.**

The exceptionality, scope and systematicity of human rights violations generated by prohibition justify the recourse to retroactive laws. –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 03– **When *Cannabis* policies evolve, people imprisoned for *Cannabis*-related offences must be freed, and should be able to exercise their right to a remedy and to reparations, when relevant.**

Box 28 - For victims of prohibition, remedies and reparations are human rights

"Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law" Article 8, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217(III))

"Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes: (a) To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity; (b) To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have his right thereto determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy; (c) To ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted" Article 2(3), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200(XXI))

The United Nations General Assembly considers as victims the "persons who individually or collectively suffered harm, including physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that constitute gross violations of international human rights law." The Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation it adopted in 2005 explains that these victims should "be provided with full and effective reparation [...] which include the following forms: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. (A/RES/60/147)

In 2019, the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy published jointly by the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization precised that "everyone has the right to an effective remedy in the event of actions and omissions that undermine or jeopardise their human rights, including where these actions or omissions relate to drug policy" (International guidelines on human rights and drug policy)

See also Boxes 18 and 27.

Regulation to reduce corruption

Developing legal market regulations for the *Cannabis* plant and its derivatives is a way to **address the enormous profits of criminal organizations** and to **reduce their capacity to corrupt** politicians, public institutions and economic stakeholders. However, –RECOMMENDATION No. 16 05– **corruption must be monitored during the periods of transition.** Particular focus should be put on corruption and **conflicts of interest in the management of permits and licences**, and in the **moving into the private sector of former public officials from drug control spheres**.

Box 29 - Regulation and corruption

The United Nations Convention against Corruption in its Article 12 notes that "measures to prevent corruption involving the private sector, enhance accounting and auditing standards in the private sector [...] may include [...]: Preventing the misuse of procedures regulating private entities, including procedures regarding subsidies and licences granted by public authorities for commercial activities; [...] Preventing conflicts of interest by imposing restrictions, as appropriate and for a reasonable period of time, on the professional activities of former public officials or on the employment of public officials by the private sector after their resignation or retirement, where such activities or employment relate directly to the functions held or supervised by those public officials during their tenure" (UNCAC)

Correcting mistaken perceptions among the mass media

Among the mass media, there is a general failure in distinguishing non-problematic adult use from the small portion of consumers that develop health-related outcomes in relation with the use of *Cannabis*; medicinal uses are belittled; the specificities of spiritual and religious uses often overlooked... –RECOMMENDATION No. 16 06– **These issues of perception should be addressed, and the media should convey messages of harm reduction and relay information based on evidence.**

A contemporary approach to the conflicts between Human Rights and Drug Policy

When drug control obligations conflict with human rights obligations, Governments must prioritize the protection of, and respect for human rights and the dignity of individuals.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 16 07– **Governments should follow and implement the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy.**

Box 30 - Apply existing human rights law to the legal and policy context of drug control

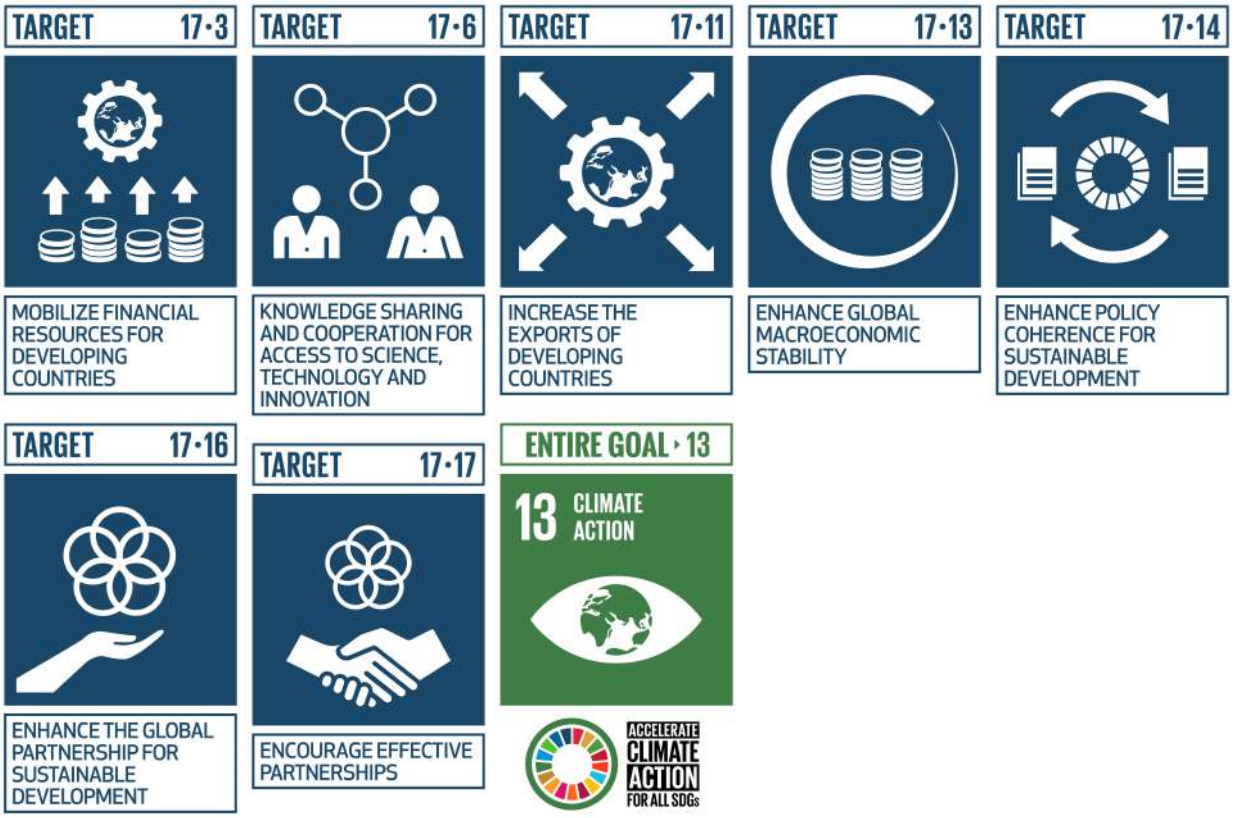
"Responding to the harms associated with drug use and the illicit drug trade is one of the greatest social policy challenges of our time. All aspects of this challenge have human rights implications. The drugs issue cuts across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and multiple Sustainable Development Goals [...] Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions is particularly important, requiring attention to human rights across the Sustainable Development Goals. [...] Sustainable, rights-based action on drug control requires shared standards from which to begin. Yet there remains a lack of clarity as to what human rights law requires of States in the context of drug control law, policy, and practice. The International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy are the result of a three-year consultative process to address this gap. [...] Critically, they do not invent new rights. They apply existing human rights law to the legal and policy context of drug control in order to maximise human rights protections, including in the interpretation and implementation of the drug control conventions" (International guidelines on human rights and drug policy)

17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RELEVANT TARGETS & GOALS OF THE **2030 AGENDA** FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT


TARGET 17·3
MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TARGET 17·6
KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COOPERATION FOR ACCESS TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
TARGET 17·11
INCREASE THE EXPORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TARGET 17·13
ENHANCE GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC STABILITY
TARGET 17·14
ENHANCE POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
TARGET 17·16
ENHANCE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
TARGET 17·17
ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS
ENTIRE GOAL · 13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION FOR ALL SDGs

RELEVANT OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE **UNGASS 2016** DRUG POLICY SUMMIT

1E	1Q	2E	3Q	4A	4B	4H	4I	6A	6D	6E	7C
7G	7I	7L	OP. § 9								

Coherence with international Human Rights obligations

–RECOMMENDATION No. 17 01– **To cohere, drug policies must stop hampering international and constitutional human rights obligations.** –RECOMMENDATION No. 10 10– **Legal and regulated ways of access for every single use of the *Cannabis* plant must be made available.**

Box 31 - The issue of hierarchy of norms

"When the goals and approaches of the international drug control regime and international human rights regime conflict, it is clear that human rights obligations should prevail" according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Anand Grover (A/65/255)

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, adopted in December 2018, stipulates that "States shall elaborate, interpret and apply relevant international agreements and standards to which they are a party in a manner consistent with their human rights obligations as applicable to peasants and other people working in rural areas." (A/RES/73/165)

In 2019, Piet Hein van Kempen and Masha Fedorova showed that, on the basis of this superiority of international human rights law over drug control, "it can be possible for states to regulate cannabis cultivation and trade for recreational use by legalization in accordance with international law in spite of the UN Drugs Conventions. To this end, the state should – in a sincere and convincing manner – demonstrate that regulation would constitute a better protection of human rights than a prohibitive approach in accordance with the drugs conventions. These human rights first and foremost concern positive obligations deriving from the rights to health, life, physical and mental integrity, and privacy to the extent that these obligations serve to ensure individual and public health, security and crime control. The regulation, however, will have to satisfy several requirements and must be accompanied by a policy that discourages recreational cannabis use. If a state is able to satisfy these conditions, under current international law it can legitimately prioritize the human rights obligations over and above any conflicting obligations arising from the UN Narcotic Drugs Conventions" (International law and cannabis II. Regulation of cannabis cultivation and trade for recreational use: positive human rights obligations versus UN Narcotic Drugs Conventions)

Coherence with the Right to health: Nothing on earth justifies barriers to access for therapeutic purposes

To cohere, countries' drug policies must also –RECOMMENDATION No. 17 02– **cease to overlap the international obligation contained in the 1961 Single Convention on narcotic drugs of ensuring adequate access and availability of *Cannabis* for medical and research purposes** (see Goal 3).

Box 32 - Governments are obliged to allow medical *Cannabis* uses

In February 2016, the President of the International Narcotics Control Board recalled that "addressing the discrepancy in the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes is **one of the obligations of Governments** in complying with the international drug control conventions" (E/INCB/2015/1/Supp.1)

Involving affected populations and civil society stakeholders in the design of future policies

–RECOMMENDATION No. 17 03– **Affected populations** (people who use, cultivate, sell, or are affected by *Cannabis*, and their communities), peer groups, NGOs, scholars, the health and social care sector and the private sector **should be involved at all levels of decision, in particular in the early design of *Cannabis*-related public strategies, policies, laws, and regulations.**

Shifting the focus from police to health

–RECOMMENDATION No. 17 04– **Redirecting part of international and domestic government funding of *Cannabis* and drug control law enforcement towards health and development programs** can provide a significant contribution to achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, by **stopping to fund and fuel policies that harm human communities and ecosystems.**

Legal Cannabis to fund the transition to a sustainable world

–RECOMMENDATION No. 17 05– Sound reforms of *Cannabis* policies would lead to a redistribution of profits and a **mobilization of the resources recovered from criminal organizations, of the savings in costs from law enforcement, and of the taxes from legal operations, to public policy action for sustainable development**. The transition of crops from illegal to legal settings, diversification of *Cannabis* plant-derived products, reuse of waste, etc. will create additional financial resources, including increases in legal exports of *Cannabis*-related products for the least developed countries.

Governments should orient public funds generated by licit *Cannabis* activities towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, particularly to funding the policies and programs recommended in this toolkit.

After 2030: merging the UN plan of action on drugs with the global development agenda

There is a need for coherence and consistency between global and national policies and strategies, on drug policies and sustainable development.

–RECOMMENDATION No. 17 06– **In 2029,** when the decade-long United Nations drug control strategy adopted at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2019 will reach its term, the international community should take one year of reflection and, in 2030, **drug policies must align with sustainable development and human rights** and the **international strategies on drugs must fuse in the post-2030 Agenda**, instead of being maintained in parallel policy universes.

BE THE
CHANGE

CONCLUSION

Beyond this toolkit, its contents and recommendations, a between-the-lines reading shows one main thrust: the need for the general mindset to evolve – French-speaking people are used to saying, "changer de logiciel", *updating the* mindset, the *hardware*. **All existing *Cannabis* policies –even the legal regulations implemented in Canada or Uruguay– have been crafted under a paradigm of continued prohibition.** But policies can evolve without paradigm change, resulting in what social movements related to *Cannabis* policy reform often call "prohibition 2.0". For instance, legal regulations of *Cannabis*-related activities that perpetuate the exclusion, stigma, criminalization of, and harms to affected populations, or policies that further hampers their perspective of an eventual dignified way out of the illegal settings by placing overly burdensome barriers to access to legal means of exercising *Cannabis*-related activities.

More than an incantation, the call to engage in a **normalized thinking** and normalization may be a priority for policy making. Post-prohibition studies are needed to accompany policy. In such a not-anymore-utopical post-prohibition world, a significant part of the regulatory burden that currently occupies regulators, fades away. In a post-prohibition world where demand is correctly met by legal supply, where household personal cultivation is allowed: not only the room and reasons for an illicit market to exist disappear, but all legal, regulatory, administrative, or security burden become irrelevant. In a post-prohibition world, where ways to cultivate *Cannabis* for all purposes (be it for 'hemp', for medicines, or for adult use purposes) are legal, the need to strongly separate "hemp" from non-"hemp" cultivation vanishes as well. The incentives for farmers or people in contact with *Cannabis* to divert it to illicit markets is replaced by the possibility (incentive *per se*) to access licit market outputs, licit, safe and protected labour, to stabilize and securize one's livelihood, and be free from the double-pressure of criminal groups and law enforcement.

In that sense, *post-prohibition* rhymes with *normalization* – or rather *non-exceptionality* in policy making and law enforcement. And this might mean **ending with "*Cannabis* policy" *per se*** as an object of law. For *Cannabis* to be normalized, normal, existing laws and policies should be sought as a better framework than any newly-shaped *Cannabis* law – and for this, the concept of BioTrade might be appropriate.

Yes, *Cannabis* has specificities that policy must consider: however, having *Cannabis*-specific legislation might only perpetuate a policy exceptionality that does not reflect the relative normality of a plant – a plant which, contrary to many others, is not invasive, not lethal, not precious, and perfectly lends itself to sustainable policy regulation – when well thought through.

All things considered, with partnership and mutual understanding, *Cannabis* and its policies are an essential ally to tackle the issues of our time and build policies on all continents that are worth the collective intelligence of our century.

Index of recommendations for Sustainable Cannabis Policies

01 01	If *Cannabis* remains illegal: systematize alternatives to prison in the case of petty *Cannabis* and other drug-related offences.
01 02	If *Cannabis* is legalized: erase criminal records of people previously convicted for *Cannabis*-related offenses.
01 03	In legal markets, give priority to vulnerable populations previously involved in illicit *Cannabis*-related activities.
01 04	Avoid barriers to access to legal markets for vulnerable and impoverished populations.
01 05	Include fair trade components. Reduce the number of middlemen or their profits compared to those of growers and retailers. Redistribute profits along the production chain.
01 06	Ensure equitable benefit-sharing for the populations that have been historically growing *Cannabis*.
01 07	Ensure fair and non-relocatable economic opportunities via, among others, community ownership, collective protections and intellectual property.
01 08	Apply international legal protections for *Cannabis*-related traditional medicine, knowledge and cultural expressions.
01 09	Right to seeds: allow own, local, traditional and farm-saved *Cannabis* varieties, in addition to registered seeds and plant varieties.
01 10	Preserve genetic diversity (via community-led seed banks, ethnobotanical research). Conserve *Cannabis* knowledge and know-hows.
01 11	Embed *Cannabis* and hemp within pre-existing agricultural strategies. Assist & train farmers in diversifying the output products of their crops.
01 12	Urgently discontinue crop eradication policies.
01 13	Repair asset forfeiture and seizure of farmers' land. Set up procedures of property claim and restitution.
01 14	Assess the environmental impacts of past eradications.
01 15	Implement Regulation-Oriented Alternative Development: train, fund, and assist farmers to transition from illicit to licit *Cannabis* production.

02 01	Use local *Cannabis* seed-based products as humanitarian tools against malnutrition.
02 02	Do not submit "hemp" to burdensome overregulation.

03 01	Provide immediate access to *Cannabis* for patients who need it, within healthcare systems. Urgently increase compassionate access; accelerate reforms; provide safe and sustained access.
03 02	Train doctors.
03 03	Fit *Cannabis* in existing herbal medicine regulatory frameworks, and traditional medicine systems.
03 04	Explore the use of low-THC *Cannabis* products as tools in nicotine cessation strategies.
03 05	Consider the prescription of *Cannabis* as a therapeutic adjunct or complement to opioid prescription treatments
03 06	Foster independent and publicly-funded medical research of all kinds (clinical, pharmacological, botanical, ethnomedical, ethical, medical anthropology, etc.)
03 07	Ensure a stigma-free access to health care services for the care of *Cannabis* use disorders.
03 08	Increase pharmacovigilance. Generalize *Cannabis* products content analysis.
03 09	Support honest, impartial & independent research on adult use and *Cannabis* products use disorder.
03 10	DUI: replace bioassays by roadside psychomotor, behavioral and cognitive sobriety tests.
03 11	Consider food-products made from *Cannabis* seeds as a tool in the replacement of animal proteins.

04 01	Shift public spending on drugs, from law enforcement towards health.
04 02	Just say no to Prevention based on fear, stigma, disinformation, or led by law-enforcement. Instead: do evidence-based, inclusive, interactive prevention & harm reduction; attentive to gender, racism, social justice, and stigma.
04 03	Facilitate permits for all kinds of scientific activities. Promote and fund independent research.
04 04	Train the workforce for legal *Cannabis* markets.
04 05	Prioritize the training & reinsertion of people previously involved in the illegal *Cannabis* economy. Dignify traditional knowledge & street-learnt skills.

05 01	End gender-specific repression (like the withdrawal of child custody)
05 02	Pay specific attention to female *Cannabis* use and differences in prevention, primary care and treatment.
05 03	Adopt woman-specific health policies. Include and consult with women at all levels.
05 04	Support & monitor female leadership in legal *Cannabis*.

07 01	Foster R&D of hemp as a source of energy, and for the storage of electricity.
07 02	Incentivize greenhouse and outdoor cultivation.
07 03	Mainstream ecological and sustainable cultivation (via standardization, peer guidelines, limitations or a carbon-tax model for indoor *Cannabis* cultivation).

08 01	Place labour issues at the core of *Cannabis* policy reforms. Ahead of reforms, socio-economically assess illicit *Cannabis*-related work.
08 02	Monitor the compliance of legal *Cannabis* operations with labour rights (in terms of employment, earnings, hours, occupational safety, social security, training, representation, and fundamental rights at work).
08 03	Assist and monitor the transition of populations previously involved in *Cannabis* cultivation to the regulated market. Ensure that legal regulations benefit the people that rely on this income.
08 04	Tackle in priority *Cannabis*-related forced or compulsory labour and modern forms of slavery.
08 05	Fight *Cannabis*-related stigma at work.
08 06	Adopt differentiative and progressive tax policies to foster local investment & ownership for all.
08 07	Encourage and facilitate the creation of *Cannabis* farmers cooperatives.
08 08	Focus the development of legal *Cannabis* operations in peripheral or disadvantaged areas and neighborhoods.
08 09	Use legal *Cannabis* and hemp to tackle depopulation in rural areas.
08 10	Make sure banking and insurance services are not denied to legal *Cannabis* operations.
08 11	Contemplate microcredit for small-scale farmers.
08 12	Follow sustainable tourism guidelines & indicators.

09 01	Foster the use of hemp-made concrete and other *Cannabis* construction materials for a “Mile 0” building sector.
09 02	Integrate hemp crops in non-disruptive geoengineering strategies for carbon dioxide sequestration.

10 01	End “drug courts” and exceptional justice systems.
10 02	Raise no financial, administrative, technical, or other barriers against persons involved in *Cannabis*-related activities prior to regulations.
10 03	Grant the Right to remedy and reparation for victims of prohibition, via programs for inclusion in legal markets. Ensure amnesty or a definitive expungement of historically unjust convictions and criminal records.
10 04	Do not restrict access to legal markets for people with prior drug-related convictions.
10 05	Train the prisoners of prohibition to labour reinsertion in the legal *Cannabis* industry.
10 06	Monitor the impact of *Cannabis* policies on youth, ethnic minorities, migrants, foreigners, indigenous, and socially marginalized people.
10 07	Foster local social innovations in *Cannabis* policy.
10 08	Make *Cannabis* social clubs legal.
10 09	Do not restrict the fundamental right to home growing and self-cultivation.
10 10	Legally regulate a six-tiered model: - conventional medical system, - herbal (or traditional) medical system, - self-cultivation - non-for-profit collective clubs, - commercial adult use industry, and - agricultural policy for hemp.

11 01	Foster local integration & inclusion in legal markets, rely on popular skills, knowledge, and expertise.
11 02	Assist specific neighborhoods (historical places of retail) in transitioning towards a legal *Cannabis* industry.
11 03	Implement strong collective intellectual property protections for traditional *Cannabis* farmers, to protect cultural & natural heritages. Contemplate Geographical Indications, Appellations of Origin, collective marks or any other relevant model.
11 04	Support a circular economy of *Cannabis* and hemp. Favour local producer-to-consumer supply chains. Use hemp to foster greener human settlements.

12 01	Use hemp paper, plastic, biofuels, building materials, and clothes to help transition to greener societies.
12 02	Use hemp to increase value-added and productivity in agricultural production.

15 01	Develop good environmental practices for *Cannabis* and foster organic cultivation.
15 02	Encourage farmers to crop diversification with other plants in addition to the genus *Cannabis*.
15 03	Increase R&D of *Cannabis* for the phytoremediation of contaminated soil and water.
15 04	Exclude all "industrial uses of the *Cannabis* plant" from drug-related regulations.
15 05	Prioritize rural, small-scale, community-held, traditional *Cannabis* over large monocultures.
15 06	Preserve genetic heritage and maintain biodiversity by granting the full extent of Farmers Rights contained in the Plant Treaty, over and above any breeders' privilege.
15 07	Consider digital sequence information and genetic sequencing data as an integral part of the seeds. Apply farmers and peasants' seeds-related rights to digital genetic information.
15 08	Policies must always favour natural, unedited genetic material, and move with extreme care regarding synthetic biology, GMOs and dysbiosynthetic phytocannabinoids.
15 09	Apply the principles and criteria of BioTrade to all Cannabis policies. Follow UNCTAD guide "BioTrade and Access and Benefit Sharing: from concept to practice."

16 01	End criminalization. Withdraw personal/petty offenses from the scope of criminal laws (dejudiciarisation).
16 02	Demilitarize public spaces & institutions. Train police to ethics and human rights.
16 03	Include violence reduction as a goal and as a parameter of policies. Do not impose overly burdensome security requirements on legal operations.
16 04	Apply a strict proportionality of sentences for offences that remain illicit.
16 05	Monitor corruption during the transition out of prohibition. Focus on conflicts of interest in issuing permits and licenses; drug control officials moving into the legal *Cannabis* sector.
16 06	Address stigma and desinformation among the media.
16 07	Follow and implement the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy.

17 01	Change drug policies so they stop hampering constitutionally-protected human rights and international human rights obligations.
17 02	Change drug policies so they enforce the international obligation to ensure access to medicines.
17 03	Involve affected populations & civil society at all levels of policy decision-making and design.
17 04	Redirect international public funding from drug control law enforcement towards health and development programs.
17 05	Direct to SDG action the resources from criminal organizations, the savings from law enforcement, and the taxes from legal *Cannabis* businesses.
17 06	In 2029, merge the United Nations global drug strategy in the post-2030 agenda.

Overview of the relevant operational recommendations from the UNGASS 2016 outcome document

UNGASS 2016 CHAPTER 1 DEMAND REDUCTION & NON-MEDICAL USES

1A	Primary prevention for children and youth
1C	Increase scientific evidence-based prevention & tools targeting relevant age and risk groups
1D	Promote the well-being of society as a whole through balanced, non-discriminatory national drug policies
1E	Involve all civil society in prevention
1F	Enhance cooperation between public health, education and law enforcement authorities in prevention
1G	Develop and improve recreation, sports, culture.
1H	Towards internationally shared good practices in drug use disorder prevention
1I	Recognize drug dependence as a complex, multifactorial health disorder
1K	Non-discriminatory access to all treatments for all (including psychosocial, behavioural, medication-assisted), including in prisons
1L	Capacity-building for health, social and law enforcement and other criminal justice authorities
1O	Harm reduction for the public health and social consequences of drug use disorders
1Q	Involve, support & train civil society to develop balanced prevention & treatments

UNGASS 2016 CHAPTER 2 AVAILABILITY & ACCESS FOR MEDICINE & RESEARCH

2A	Change laws to ensure access
2B	Identify, analyse and remove impediments to the availability and accessibility of drugs for medicine and research
2D	Increase affordability while ensuring quality, safety and efficacy
2E	Foster adequate use of drugs in medicine

UNGASS 2016
CHAPTER 3
SUPPLY REDUCTION

3A	Prevent drug-related crime, violence, victimization and corruption. Foster social development, inclusiveness and culture of lawfulness
3B	Address criminal justice and socioeconomic-related factors that may facilitate, drive, enable and perpetuate organized crime and drug-related crime
3C	Enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses
3D	Reduce or eliminate illicit cultivations of controlled plants (poppy, coca and cannabis). Integrate eradication campaigns in sustainable crop control strategies and measures
3E	Monitor current trends and drug trafficking routes
3G	Coordinate border management strategies
3H	Improve forensic science for drug investigations
3I	Improve judicial cooperation in the areas of, inter alia, extradition, mutual legal assistance and transfer of proceeding
3J	Focus law enforcement efforts on larger, more serious and violent criminal groups
3K	Address links with corruption, trafficking in persons, in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism
3L	Address violent crimes related to gangs
3M	Prevent the acquisition and trafficking in firearms, ammunition, explosives, etc. by criminal groups
3O	Implement international provisions against money-laundering
3P	Exchange of operational information to prevent and counter money-laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorist financing
3Q	Integrate financial investigations more thoroughly and disrupt crime through its financing
3R	Address safe havens, and identify and mitigate money-laundering risks linked to new technologies
3S	Identify, trace, freeze, seize and confiscate assets and proceeds of drug-related crime
3T	Addressing the links between drug-related crimes and corruption, obstruction of justice, and intimidation of justice officials

UNGASS 2016
CHAPTER 4
HUMAN RIGHTS

4A	Train policymakers & authorities to drug policy that fully respect all fundamental rights and protects health for all
4B	Ensure non-discriminatory access to health, care and social services for PWUD, including WWUD
4C	Prevent any possible acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in drug care facilities
4D	Identify and address protective and risk factors, in particular for women
4E	Address the specific needs of underage children and youth offenders for drug-related crimes
4F	Age-appropriate practical measures, tailored to the specific needs of children, youth and other vulnerable groups. Prevent youth involvement in drug-related crime, urban crime and gang-related violence
4G	Mainstream a gender perspective into drug policies. Ensure full involvement of women in all stages
4H	Collect data on drug policy and human rights and the health, safety and welfare of all individuals, communities and society, including recent developments, best practices and challenges
4I	Respect the environment, traditional licit uses of plant-based drugs, and indigenopus people' rights
4J	Alternatives to conviction or punishment
4K	Share information on proportional sentencing criminal justice policies
4L	Proportionality of penalties Take account of mitigating or aggravating factors
4M	Access to treatment of drug use disorders in prisons Eliminate prison overcrowding and violence
4N	Specific needs & vulnerabilities of women prisoners
4O	Effective justice, elimination of impunity, due process, fair trial & prohibition of torture & degrading treatments

UNGASS 2016
CHAPTER 5
EVOLVING REALITIES, TRENDS, CHALLENGES, & THREATS

5A	Adapt prevention and treatment measures to the new trends and challenges, including adult use
5B	Train law enforcement to NPS and amphetamine testing and identification
5P	Increase research on internet drug markets and strengthen law enforcement, criminal justice and legal responses
5R	Enhance the capacity of authorities to handle electronic and online evidence for investigations
5U	Improve the implementation of drug control strategies uning monitoring & evaluation, and relevant, reliable and objective data
5V	Address drug-related socioeconomic factors, including unemployment and social marginalization
5W	Review existing international guidelines, and develop new ones, on all aspects of drug policies
5X	Understand micro trafficking and develop appropriate strategies
5Y	Share information and updates on best practices on scientific evidence-based policies worldwide

UNGASS 2016
CHAPTER 6
COOPERATION

6A	Strengthen technical assistance to requesting countries
6B	Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
6C	Regularly exchange field information and facilitate meaningful discussion among practitioners
6D	Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to contribute to the global follow-up and progress review on the Sustainable Development Agenda
6E	CND & UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to increase cooperation with broader UN system

UNGASS 2016
CHAPTER 7
DEVELOPMENT & SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

7A	Target the illicit cultivation with strategies aimed at alleviating poverty and strengthening the rule of law. Promote sustainable development to enhance the welfare of affected and vulnerable population through licit alternatives
7B	Eradicate poverty, implement rural development, address environmental outcomes, involve communities, promote Alternative Development (AD) products
7C	Strengthen sustainable crop control strategies to prevent and reduce illicit cultivation
7D	Implement comprehensive and sustainable AD programmes, ensuring the empowerment, ownership and responsibility of affected local communities, including farmers and their cooperatives
7E	Cooperate at the subregional, regional and international levels, for alternative development
7F	Take into account all lessons learned and good practices from countries experienced in AD
7G	Study the factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation, taking into account local and regional specificities. Improve impact assessment of AD programmes
7H	Strengthen a development perspective in national drug policies and programmes. Address risk factors affecting individuals, communities and society (e.g., lack of services, infrastructure needs, drug-related violence, exclusion, marginalization and social disintegration).
7I	Ask UN, international financial institutions, private sector and NGOs to contribute to development-oriented drug policies and to support AD programmes
7J	Encourage the development of viable economic alternatives for affected populations, land for farmers, and equal benefit for women and men
7K	Sustainable urban development initiatives; public participation in crime prevention, community cohesion, protection and safety; stimulation of innovation, entrepreneurship and employment
7L	Investments targeted at job creation in areas and among communities affected by or at risk of illicit drug activities

UNGASS 2016
OPERATIONAL PARAGRAPH 9
IMPLEMENTATION IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY & THE WHOLE UNITED NATIONS

CANNABIS2030.ORG